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Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk October 16, 2011 **MID & WEST KENT EDITION** Issue no 473

Study raises health fears for poorer areas of 'rich' towns

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

HEALTH chiefs have raised concerns over the "distinct disadvantage" faced by people living in poorer districts of affluent areas of the county.

In a review of financial sustainability in the NHS by Kent County Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC), figures showed NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent received £1,725 per person for 2011-12 while NHS West Kent received around £220 less, with £1,499.

The west Kent trust commissions services for some 655,700 people in areas including Tunbridge Wells, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Malling and Maidstone, which are viewed as more well-off areas.

But the trust also serves people in the more deprived districts of Dartford and Gravesham.

Chief executive of Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust Susan Acott said the HOSC report highlighted an important issue in the difference in funding.

"Dartford and Gravesham are much poorer than the rest of west Kent and the life expectancy is significantly less in some wards," she said.

"It is a distinct disadvantage to be a poorer district in an overly affluent area and commissioners must work to mitigate problems that arise from this situation. I think the HOSC should be duly mindful of this fact."

Health profiles by the Public Health Observatory showed that men living in deprived areas of Dartford are dying eight years earlier than in the more wealthy wards.

Obesity rates in the area show almost a quarter of children in school Year Six – aged 10-11 – are classified obese. Some 3,440 children are also living in poverty.

Continued on page 2

DORMICE ARE BACK AT NATURE RESERVE

BOOST: Mission to bring furry friends back to our woodland a success **SEE INSIDE**

COMMUNITY

Village of the Year named

WINNERS of the Kent Village of the Year competition have been announced, with four communities going head-to-head for the prestigious title. The award ceremony took place on Thursday night, with villages from Medway and Maidstone vying for the top prize. **PAGE 2**

COUNCIL

Clampdown on car sales

GRAVESHAM council chiefs are getting tough on the illegal sale of cars on the roadside, by dishing out heavy fines. New legislation means it is forbidden to sell two or more cars on the same stretch of road. Now one man has been hit with three £100 fines for flouting the regulations. **PAGE 7**

TRAVEL

Bus station to boost towns

A MULTI-million pound bus station has opened in Chatham, seen as a key part of the regeneration of the whole of Medway, as well as the town centre. The £5m complex on the waterfront will act as a hub for bus journeys around the towns, covering some 117 destinations **PAGE 9**

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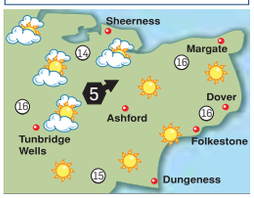

TODAY: Dry and fine with sun, but more cloud is possible. Light winds. Max temp 15-18C (59-64F). **TONIGHT:** Cloudy, but remaining dry. Min temp 9-12C (48-54F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	01.39	6.4	13.45	6.3
Margate	02.42	4.6	15.08	4.6
St Mary's	07.30	5.3	19.47	5.2

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 17C	Min 9C
Tuesday	Max 13C	Min 7C
Wednesday	Max 13C	Min 7C
Thursday	Max 14C	Min 9C
Friday	Max 16C	Min 9C
Saturday	Max 16C	Min 10C

Information supplied by MeteoGroup

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AWARD

Kent Village of the Year named as top four battle it out

By Chris Britcher
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THE winners of the Kent Village of the Year have been unveiled – with finalists from Medway, Maidstone, Ashford and Shepway battling it out for glory.

But in the end the overall title went to Elham, between Folkestone and Canterbury.

The competition, organised by Action with Communities in Rural Kent, selected winners over the four themes: social action, transport, economic development and environment.

Communities from across the county had been invited to take part and submit projects they were especially proud of.

Allhallows, in Medway, scooped the social action prize, with judge Ray Owen saying: "From having virtually nothing for the youngsters to do, they rebuilt an abandoned and wrecked building, into an absolute centre of what's good about village life."

The transport prize was lifted by Stockbury in Maidstone. It won praise for a community minibus.

Judge Nick Allan explained: "It has a parish minibus which seats 14 people and has capacity for two wheelchair customers. With more than 192 regular users this is well supported by the parish and borough council."

Brabourne, near Ashford, scooped the economy title, with judges saying it was a "thriving economy with a wealth of pubs, shops and businesses", while Elham took the environment award courtesy of its "great range of environmental activities that cover the whole community".

The winners, handed their awards at a special presentation on Thursday night at Dunkirk Village Hall, then went head-to-head for the ultimate prize – eventually won by Elham.

However, Allhallows picked up the best newcomer award, winning particular praise for the way the community "had built itself great social activities almost overnight. If this is what they have done since May, we can't wait to see what they can do in a year".

Competition organiser, Miranda Hayes, said "This was a fantastic competition this year and the judges did a fantastic job. It was very close between all the villages and it was really difficult to make a final decision, but the overall winner was Elham in Shepway."

The winner will hold the title for one year, until the competition opens again next year.

Picture: GOOGLE

PICTURE PERFECT: Elham, between Canterbury and Folkestone, took village title

'Balancing act' of how much resource allocated to services

Continued from front page

In Gravesham, life expectancy for men is nine years lower than in more prosperous parts.

For people living in poorer areas of Tunbridge Wells and Sevenoaks, however, life expectancy is only four years less than those living in affluent wards.

Rod Smith, director of financial strategy and planning, NHS Kent and Medway, said funding allocation was decided centrally at the Department of Health.

Asked how the trust helped ensure people living in deprived areas received the required help, he said: "The funding formula that distributes money from the Department of Health to PCTs takes account of the size, age, and additional needs – including health inequalities – of the population.

"To allocate the money to emerging clinical commissioning groups (CCGs), a similar formula which is being specifically designed for groups of GP practices, is used.

"Therefore the overall mechanism directs resources appropriately and to where it is needed."

A report by KCC's HOSC said one of the "balancing acts" for commissioners was how much resource to allocate to services where there was a recognised need.

"The primary care trusts are responsible for around 80 per cent of the total NHS budget and their role is to use the money allocated to commission services to meet the health needs of the people living in their area."

The report added: "Each area of the country and, more locally, each area of the county, has different health needs and preferences around how and where services are delivered.

"On the one hand this is a positive thing, on the other this can be seen as providing an inequitable service if something is not available everywhere."

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HEALTH

Postcode lottery for treatment of people with eating disorders

By Marijke Cox
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A MAJOR review into the county's eating disorder support is under way after health chiefs admitted the current service was "inadequate".

In a paper discussed by the Health Overview and Scrutiny committee at County Hall on Friday, NHS Kent and Medway outlined the work being carried out to ensure vulnerable people suffering from disorders such as anorexia and bulimia had the support they needed.

The review was launched after specialist mental health commissioners in Kent and Medway admitted the service was "inadequate in both clinical and financial terms".

"There is a disparity across the county in terms of access to services, waiting lists and a disproportionate amount of funding spent on out-of-area placements," said an NHS spokesman. "Conducting a draft options appraisal has allowed the stakeholder steering group to focus on a more effective use of the resources in order to provide a quicker, more responsive service ."

Specialist mental health commissioners in the county said they needed to identify a model of care that would enable timely access to support.

"Improving access to high quality, responsive, community-based primary care specialist nurses is a key objective," said the NHS spokesman.

Currently there are four primary care specialist nurses who offer early intervention on eating disorders for people aged 14 upwards in east Kent, Dartford and Medway, but there are no specialist nurses in Maidstone. This primary care liaison service has an overall capacity of 40 patients. From January to December, 2010, the service saw almost 80 patients.

Outpatient services are available in Maidstone for sufferers in west Kent and in various locations in east Kent, which saw just over 1,700 patients between April, 2010, and March, 2011.

Maidstone is the only place in Kent to provide inpatient treatment; the Red House caters for just six people. For severe easting disorder cases, where inpatient provision is needed with interventional feeding, patients are sent out of area to Cygnet and Maudsley hospitals in London.

In 2010-11, 15 patients were sent out of area, three due to lack of beds in Maidstone.

Feedback from people with eating disorders, GPs, and NHS staff, found the main issues for patients was the waiting times for treatment and the inequality in access to services across Kent.

Patients said they felt primary care practitioners needed more education into eating disorders to slow down the fast referral service and that more support was needed in the community.

Feedback from the first part of the review found good progress had been made, but a committee group is due to be set up between KCC and Medway council's Health Overview and Scrutiny committees to consider options for an improved countywide service.

INADEQUATE: Support is lacking, both clinically and financially, for those with eating disorders

The UK has the highest rate of eating disorders in Europe. These include anorexia and bulimia.

National eating disorder organisation Anorexia and Bulimia Care (ABC) said recent figures suggested that one in 100 women has a clinically diagnosed eating disorder.

The charity said nationally the number of cases of people under 18 being admitted to hospital in the past four years had increased by almost 10 per cent. Figures included almost 450 children aged under 10.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Teen assault arrests

TWO more arrests have been made in relation to the serious assault on a 15-year-old boy in Dover.

The teenager was assaulted outside a shop in Worthington Street on October 8, leaving him in a critical condition with serious head injuries in Kings College Hospital in London.

Two men from Dover, aged 18 and 19, were arrested on Wednesday on suspicion of assault and were in custody being questioned. A 31-year-old man and 28-year-old man, both from Dover, arrested on Tuesday, and a woman from the town, aged 25, have all been released on bail.

Widdy to host TV show

FORMER Maidstone Tory MP Ann Widdecombe is to present a television quiz called Cleverdicks.

In the Sky Atlantic show to be broadcast next year, four contestants will play for a cash prize and the title 'cleverdick'.

Last year Widdecombe starred in Strictly Come Dancing, and this winter will make her pantomime debut in Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs at the Orchard Theatre in Dartford.

Sportsman's the best

A PUB near Whitstable has won gastropub of the year in the National Restaurant Awards.

The Sportsman, in Seasalter, scooped the top award – and then came fifth in the list of the top 100 eateries in the UK.

Beating pub into fifth place was Heston Blumenthal's The Fat Duck – which sets diners back £180 per person for its four-hour taster menu.

WEDDINGS

Everything the happy couple need, and all inside one grand marquee

THIS weekend sees the chance to win a series of amazing prizes for those about to tie the knot as The Wedding Show takes place in the wonderful surroundings of Leeds Castle.

The two-day event is just the thing to inspire brides, grooms-to-be, and their families to make sure their big day is one which will provide a lifetime of memories.

Based on the continual success of The Wedding Show at Tatton Park in Cheshire – the premier wedding show in the North of England – Archant KOS Media is bringing the concept of its flagship show to the South East this Saturday and Sunday by organising the most exciting two-day wedding show in the area.

The event will be set within a luxurious 2,850 s qm grand marquee in the magnificent grounds of the romantic castle.

Among the prizes in a series of free-to-enter draws are a honeymoon with Isibindi African Lodges and Safari Sun

THE WEDDING SHOW

taking in the Rhino Post Safari Lodge in South Africa's Kruger National Park, and the coastline at Thonga Beach Lodge.

There is also a chance to win a holiday on the paradise island of Mauritius at the Constance Belle Mare Plage resort, as well as a superb opportunity for grooms to arrive at the ceremony in the DeLorean time travelling car featured in the Back to the Future films.

There will be more than 100 exhibitors, a Champagne bar, refreshments, entertainment, goody bags, VIPs and a number of spectacular catwalk shows featuring exquisite bridal designs, couture ladies' fashions, lingerie, and men's attire.

TV star Claire Sweeney, pictured, will be hosting several of the catwalk shows displaying the latest in bridal fashion.

Claire, who has starred in TV shows Brookside, Celebrity Big Brother, Loose Women and Strictly Come Dancing said: "I am delighted to be hosting The Wedding Show and look forward to meeting you there."

The Wedding Show is bringing something special and different to Kent with entertainment including a harpist, singers and a casino.

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■ **Tickets available on the door, or go to http://kent.weddinglink.co.uk/home for a two for one ticket offer using code 241.**

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ANIMALS

Hairy pigs Si and Dave live up to their cuddly, food-loving namesakes

A PAIR of porkers brought to a wildlife centre to replace the famous Tamworth Two have been named after the Hairy Bikers.

The woolly-coated Mangalitza pigs at the Rare Breeds Centre in Woodchurch, near Ashford, have been named Si and Dave after the famous bearded TV cooks.

The names were chosen by Emily Hoare from Brighton, who won a competition to find names for the animals.

Si and Dave are actually a sow and boar who have produced five piglets, but the names were thought ideal by users of the Canterbury Oast Trust, the charity which runs the centre and cares for people with learning disabilities.

Spokeswoman Nikki Sara said: "We had some superb suggestions – including Porky's and Bessie's and Fluffy and Scruffy – but we thought Si and Dave were just perfect. Just like our Si and Dave, the Hairy Bikers love everything to do with food, are popular, distinctive and cuddly."

Emily said: "I have always loved the Hairy Bikers and there was something about the new Mangalitza pigs that made me think of them. Maybe it was because they were so hairy."

DOUBLE TROUBLE: Hairy Bikers Si and Dave, and pigs Si and Dave

Farm manager Davy McColm said: "Si and Dave will be moving into their new sty shortly. Tamworth Towers was formerly the home of Butch and Sundance.

"It was one large apartment with a field attached.

" We are turning it into a home suitable for the whole family – Si, Dave and their five piglets.

"We are thinking of calling their new home Mangalitza Manor."

Picture: GREG ALLEN

The Tamworth Two hit the headlines when they escaped while being unloaded from a lorry at an abattoir in Malmesbury, Wiltshire in January, 1998.

The pigs, later named Butch and Sundance after Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, were on the run for more than a week, and the search for them caused a huge media sensation.

After they were captured they lived at the Rare Breeds Centre. Butch was put to sleep aged 13 on October 8, 2010, after becoming seriously ill.

Sundance, aged 14, suffering from arthritis, and "much quieter" after his sister's death, was put down on May 23, 2011.

■ **For more information about the Rare Breeds Centre visit www.rarebreeds.org.uk.**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cross-Channel crime

KENT Police have signed a co-operation agreement with their French counterparts in a bid to crack down on cross-Channel terror plots, drug smuggling, and people trafficking.

Chief Constable Ian Learmonth travelled to France last week to sign the deal, which extends an initiative between the two forces to ensure the Channel is not used to evade justice or spirit away the ill-gotten gains of a criminal lifestyle.

Officers target counter-terrorism, drug supply, people trafficking and illegal immigration.

Thanksgiving for Dilley

A THANKSGIVING service will take place at Worcester Cathedral to celebrate the life of Graham Dilley.

The former Kent and England Ashes hero died aged 52 on October 5 from cancer. His funeral will be a family ceremony, with the cathedral service on November 9 the chance for family, friends, players and former cricket associates to pay their respects.

Lap-dancing research

A University of Kent academic is to spend a year looking at whether lap-dancing clubs make some people feel unsafe in cities at night.

The research will help council licensing officers and community safety groups make decisions on the suitability of the clubs.

Professor Phil Hubbard said: "No-one has explored the impact lap dancing clubs have on the nightlife of British cities."

EMPLOYMENT

Council defends jobs figures as thousands are 'moved not axed'

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

COUNTY Hall chiefs have issued a stinging rebuke to claims by union bosses that the authority had seen the highest number of job losses across all English councils.

Cabinet member for business, strategy, performance and health reform at Kent County Council, Cllr Roger Gough, said figures published by the GMB showing 3,107 cuts at KCC since the general election were "inaccurate".

He said the union had failed to take into account the number of school staff who were moved from KCC to academy employment when schools chose to convert to independent status and out of local education authority control.

"Let's get the facts right, the figures published by the GMB on KCC job losses are inaccurate and without context," said Cllr Gough.

"The actual total number of staff in schools reduced by 3,147 for the year April, 2010, to April, 2011. The majority of this number – 2,202 members of staff – is almost entirely as a result of some schools in Kent moving to academy status and therefore no longer part of the council."

Cllr Gough said so far 945 posts outside of schools had gone through retirement, job moves, not filling vacant posts, and job losses.

"This also takes into account use of fewer casual staff. This recognises that we have to make savings in difficult financial times," he said.

Earlier this week, the GMB union released figures from the Local Government Association (LGA) which suggested there had been 3,107 job losses since the general election in May, 2010, through not filling vacancies and natural wastage.

The union claimed, based on LGA figures, there had been a 12 per cent drop in workforce.

Despite KCC stating that the majority of the 'losses' related to school staff transferring to academies, the union said the situation was still a concern.

National secretary, Brian Strutton, said: "Council workers and their families are paying a terrible price for the Government's austerity drive. These job losses are on top of two years of pay freezes and cuts to conditions and pensions.

"Care workers, refuse collectors, street cleaners, social workers and all the essential frontline council staff are bearing the brunt while those at the top wring their hands and look on.

"How much more are people expected to take before someone admits the economy is on its knees and we should be supporting working people not sacrificing them?

"Many of the job losses have come from not filling vacancies that would have gone to the almost one million young people out of work."

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TRANSPORT

Boris calls for suspension of toll charges during Olympic Games

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

LONDON Mayor Boris Johnson has demanded the Government either delay the proposed Dartford toll hike or scrap charges during the Olympic Games.

He stressed the planned rise from £1.50 to £2.50 next spring would discourage drivers from using the tunnel, instead moving congestion to other parts of the county and the Blackwall Tunnel.

"During the Olympic Games we are going to need businesses and Londoners to consider alternative ways of working or travelling," he said, "and heading for the Dartford Crossing will become a major consideration for drivers in the east of the city.

"That is why I have asked the Government to give serious thought to delaying their proposed increase or even better suspending the charge to use the crossing during the Olympics."

In a letter to ministers, the mayor said he welcomed proposals to suspend charging when long queues built up, but suggested the plan be amended so the suspension was triggered at a shorter length queue. He also backed another Thames crossing.

Mr Johnson's comments followed a petition by a group of Kent Tory MPs fiercely opposing the proposed increase in toll charges. Led by Dartford MP Gareth Johnson, the 11 MPs, including Chatham and Aylesford's Tracey Crouch, Gravesham's Adam Holloway, and Gillingham and Rainham's Rehman Chishti, outlined their opposition in a letter submitted to the Department for Transport.

Mr Johnson said: "All the MPs that signed this letter had similar concerns regarding the current proposals for the Dartford Crossing. We all realise the impact the charges have on our constituents, local businesses and the surrounding area."

The borough's Labour Party submitted a petition to Mr Johnson with hundreds of signatures from the public opposing the toll hikes.

Labour shadow leader at Dartford council Geoff Prout said: "We should instead be looking at practical ways of tackling queueing, pollution and congestion at the crossing by using the best available collection technology to scrap toll booths. Pressure on Dartford also needs to be relieved through a firm commitment to a second crossing."

Plans for a Third Thames Crossing from Gravesham to Chadwell in Essex have been put forward as a "preferred option" by Kent County Council, but have sparked strong opposition from Gravesham council, which claimed it would destroy greenbelt land.

An automatic number plate recognition device is due to be introduced by 2013, so toll booths can be removed and traffic allowed to flow freely through the crossing.

The Labour government went back on a promise to scrap tolls once the Queen Elizabeth II Bridge at the Dartford Crossing, built under a Private Finance Initiative, was paid for in 2002.

HARD MILES: Charges are set to rise

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CELEBRITY

Diana Dors' son to launch book telling story of movie star's life

THE son of the late Diana Dors will mark her 80th birthday later this month by launching a new book in Canterbury.

The book, Connecting Dors, is written by author Niema Ash in collaboration with her son, Jason Dors-Lake.

Both live in Broadstairs.

It will recount wild tales of the saucy actress from friends and promises to be funny, shocking and disturbing.

The star died of cancer in 1984 after a varied career which saw her star in films including There's a Girl in My Soup, What the Swedish Butler Saw, Steptoe and Son Ride Again, and Theatre of Blood.

She also appeared in TV shows including Just William, The Sweeney, Hammer House of Horror, and The Two Ronnies.

The book will be launched at 5pm on October 22 at La Trappiste in Sun Street, Canterbury.

CRIME

Police hunt for teenage gang after 15-year-old schoolgirl is raped

POLICE investigating the rape of a 15-year-old girl in Southend are searching for a group of teenage boys believed to be from Kent.

The attack happened when the schoolgirl from the town was sexually assaulted by several people behind Adventure Island off Marine Parade at Southend seafront at 10.30pm on Friday, April 8.

Essex Police say the boys were in a group near the crime scene, and two of them are central to the investigation. The first boy is white and has black hair. At the time of the attack, he was wearing beige shorts, a blue polo shirt and white Vans trainers. The second boy has blond or brown hair and wore a pink polo shirt. Both are in their mid-late teens.

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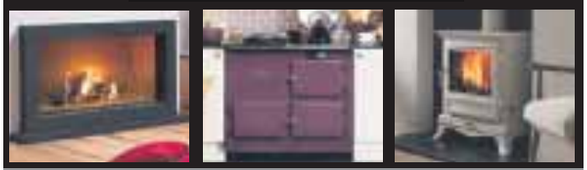

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BEER

Join the rail ale trail

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

COMBINE real ale with a jaunt on a steam train.

On October 22 and 23, the west Kent branch of the Campaign for Real Ale is teaming up with the Spa Valley Railway to run an inaugural real ale festival with a difference.

More than 30 beers and ciders will be made available along the railway line from Tunbridge Wells to Eridge.

Four will be up for tasting at Eridge, five at Groombridge, two on the train and about 20 beers and four ciders at Tunbridge Wells Old West Station.

Those visiting can join a train anywhere along the line or sup in the station while waiting for your next train on the 'ale line'.

See www.spavalleyrailway.co.uk for more details.

TRADE

Roadside car salesman fined £300

ILLEGAL kerbside car traders have been hit with £100 fines as Gravesham Borough Council gets tough in a bid to remove the trade from the streets.

Under recently-adopted legislation, it is an offence to sell two cars or more on the same stretch of public road.

So now the council is cracking down.

Three £100 fines were issued to one trader, James Maginn of Queen's Road, Gravesend, who was selling cars in Rochester Road and now the council is concentrating on other known hotspots where car trading is going on.

The fines are reduced to £60 if paid within seven days. However, unpaid fines can result in a prosecution in the magistrates' court with a £2,500 fine for each offence.

Cabinet member for community and the environment, Andrea Webb, said: "We are determined to clamp down on this sort of illegal car sales which can be annoying and dangerous.

"Our enforcement officers have an important role to play in this to make the borough a safer and cleaner place to live. We would urge people to contact us if they see anyone selling cars illegally or any other illegal actions like flytipping."

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ENTERPRISE

MP will tackle big issues of funding and skills

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

Business Week Live

KEY issues affecting the economy of the county are set to be addressed at the upcoming Business Week Live event by Gordon Marsden, the shadow minister for further education, skills and regional growth.

Mr Marsden, Labour MP for Blackpool South, has been looking into the issues faced by seaside towns – of particular relevance for the exhibition and conference which takes place at Dover Exhibition Centre on Wednesday, October 26.

He said he will also be addressing key issues affecting the county – such as bank lending policy for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and the impact of the loss of jobs at Pfizer.

"One of my responsibilities as a shadow minister is skills, and that is a subject I shall look at," he said. "Tourism is a key issue and in the last Government I worked on the Sea Change initiative which has been well received in Dover.

"There is the whole issue of growth across the south east of England as well. There is a misconception the South East is prosperous and does not need a leg-up, but when you look at the statistics for places such as the Medway Towns, this is quite clearly not the case.

"Here, again, we are coming back to the issues which affect seaside towns.

"SMEs are a vital part of the economy and responsible for much potential growth. The issue of access to finance for such businesses is important.

"There is a current mantra about getting banks to do lending but in my neck of the woods it's not really happening.

"There are some new sources for funding outside of London, but I feel these could be administered on a more local level. Some of the banks do not have a proper depth of local expertise.

"One of the things I am currently looking at is new funding sources."

Mr Marsden praised the extension of the high-speed rail link to Deal and Sandwich. "I want to talk about the impact of the job losses at Pfizer, as well," he said. "That is a very serious issue – not just the job losses, but the loss to the local economy in other ways."

■ **For more information and to book your free tickets, just go to www.businessweeklive.co.uk.**

FUTURE: MP Gordon Marsden will be addressing key business issues

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STARTING UP

Opportunities still out there, says Chamber

DESPITE the state of the economy there are still opportunities for entrepreneurs to launch new companies, according to Peter Hobbs of Channel Chamber, who will be speaking at Business Week Live.

His group represents companies across the east Kent region and is gaining in influence across the county.

Mr Hobbs said: "Even in the current uncertain economic climate, it is still a great time to consider starting your own business, and there is plenty of help and support available to get new entrepreneurs up and running.

"Along with financial support from the Government via the new Enterprise Allowance scheme, Kent Channel Chamber has recently launched local Enterprise Clubs in Dover and Folkestone for those looking to create their own business.

"There can be no doubt that new business start-ups are a vital part of the Kent economy, and small business success is where our economic growth will be rekindled.

"By working together and buying local wherever possible, the wider business community across the county can help to support the success of new businesses – they are, after all, our customers, employers and suppliers of the future.

OPTIMISTIC: Peter Hobbs says now is the time to start your own business

"This is where Kent Channel Chamber's Enterprise Clubs are providing a valuable service. Not only do they allow new entrepreneurs to meet and share ideas and experiences, but they also provide an excellent forum for established businesses to add their valuable advice and experience.

"We are keen for more local businesses in all sectors to get involved in this initiative, and help us to encourage and support new start-ups."

■ **Follow us on Twitter at @BusinessWkLive**

News

TRANSPORT

£5m bus station is first stop in regeneration of Medway

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

ALL CHANGE: Chatham's old bus station is now replaced

COUNCIL chiefs have hailed the opening of the new Chatham waterfront bus station as a significant step towards regenerating the whole of Medway.

The £5 million government-funded structure will act as the central hub for bus journeys in and around the towns, with some 117 destinations covered.

Medway Council leader Rodney Chambers said Monday's official opening of the station marked the beginning of a bright future for the region.

He said: "The new Medway bus station will act as a welcoming drop-off point for all people travelling into the area and as an easy to use hub for all residents catching public transport locally.

"It is no secret the old station was out of date, unwelcoming and – to be honest – was not a nice first impression for those arriving in Medway.

"This is a key part of the regeneration of Chatham town centre. It opens up the waterfront and helps with our aim of ensuring the area remains an important shopping destination for people across the region.

"We understand this regeneration work has taken time, but we really think it will help in our work to transform Chatham town centre.

"I would like to thank the public for being so understanding while this much-needed work was carried out."

The new station, which will be served by Arriva and four other bus operators, is one of a series of public transport improvements in the area.

These include 100 new bus stops and real-time information screens at council information points, healthy living centres and the Pentagon.

Last month the council came under fire after it was revealed £300,000 of taxpayers' money would have to be spent paying off Arriva's lease at the Pentagon.

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News

NATURE

Violet is a beautiful find

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

A RARE mushroom, which many fear could soon become extinct, has been found flourishing in a nature reserve near Tunbridge Wells.

The violet webcap was spotted at the RSPB Broadwater Warren between the town and Crowborough.

Volunteer Alan Loweth, said: "We were walking around the reserve and came across a beautiful fungus. When we checked with our fungi expert he told me that it is a violet webcap (cortinarius violaceus) that is red-listed as 'near threatened'.

"It grows in deciduous and mixed woods on acid soils and there are just 142 records from the British Isles on the main UK fungi database."

As well as this rare specimen, Broadwater Warren has may other types of fungi such as the green elf cup, which colours pieces of rotten wood a bright blue-green. And at nearby Tudeley Woods, more than 1,000 species of fungi have been recorded.

RARE: The stunning violet webcap is thought to be near extinction

Fungi are hugely diverse, living on, in, and around the plants and animals that provide their sustenance.

They provide a vital service by decomposing dead matter, returning the nutrients from fallen leaves and twigs to the soil where it can be taken up again by plants. Others form partnerships with plants, taking sugars from the plant and passing it nutrients in return. Some plants cannot survive without their fungal partner.

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ENVIRONMENT

Canoe club loves where it lives during river clean up

A SHOPPING trolley, two children's bicycles, and a pink trilby hat were just a few of the things found within the space of an hour during a clean-up of the River Medway last weekend.

Members of the Tonbridge Canoe Club collected bottles, bags, balls, a car tyre and a broken record – in total filling 13 black sacks.

More than 30 members of the club took part, supported by the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership.

The latest push was part of Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council's Love Where You Live campaign.

Howard Rogers, the council's cabinet member for environmental services, said: "This is just what the Love Where You Live campaign is all about. Tonbridge Canoe Club has set such a great example. They achieved a lot in a short space of time – and enjoyed themselves in the process. Now we need more groups to follow in their footsteps."

To take part in the Love Where You Live campaign in Tonbridge and Malling or for more information, visit www.tmbc.gov.uk/lovewhereyoulive or email lovewhereyoulive@tmbc.gov.uk. For details of the national campaign, visit the website www.lovewhereyoulive.org.

TIDY UP: Members of Tonbridge Canoe Club collected 13 black sacks of rubbish, as well as a shopping trolley and two bicycles, when they cleaned a stretch of the River Medway

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WILDLIFE

Dormice are making themselves at home

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

ONE of the country's rarest species is making its home within Hargate Forest near Tunbridge Wells, thanks to conservation work by landowner the Woodland Trust.

The charity has recently installed 50 dormice boxes within the 150 acre wood, 10 of which have so far been found to contain evidence of nests, with seven dormice confirmed to live there.

The trust is continuing to monitor the boxes in Hargate, one of several woods across the South East in which dormice numbers are being recorded as part of the National Dormouse Monitoring Programme run by the People's Trust for Endangered Species.

Site manager and dormouse specialist Sandy Williamson said: "It's fantastic news to see such widespread evidence of dormice in Hargate so soon. Hargate doesn't provide the textbook habitat people think dormice need, but any woodland that has a good canopy cover, bramble and insects can provide a home for them."

One of the trust's main aims is woodland creation, the charity's Jubilee Woods project is marking the diamond jubilee by planting six million trees and the charity as a whole is looking to double native woodland cover across the UK. Providing habitats for a wide range of wildlife is one of the main benefits.

Added the expert: "Dormice will 'travel' between woods if they are connected with what we know as wildlife corridors, such as good hedge networks. In woods where we know we have dormouse populations we leave overhanging branches and pinch points to help them move across.

"Dormice don't just eat hazelnuts, they have quite a wide diet so need a range of food sources throughout the year. Our work with woodland extension and new woodland creation helps increase their habitat."

THRIVING: The dormouse is making a comeback in Hargate Forest

FILM

Get creative in movie project for Olympics

BUDDING young film-makers are being urged to take part in a major new project commissioned by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council.

It has commissioned Curious Plant to create a series of four films to capture the experiences of young people in the run up to the 2012 Olympic Games. Those aged between 16-25 with, or without experience of film-making, are now sought to help make the films. For details email suzie.plumb@tunbridgewells.gov.uk.

EVENT

Bedgebury set for big Party in the Pines

MORE than 500 children are set to descend on Bedgebury next weekend to mark the second anniversary of food brand Bear.

The Party in the Pines is a free event running from 11am to 3pm on Saturday, October 22 and will include a host of events, including face painting, a forest trail and birthday cake. Places must be reserved. To book a free space, visit www.bearnibbles.co.uk/birthday of call 0207 183 0621.

COMPETITION

WIN a family ticket to enjoy this year's stunning bonfire night show at Quex Park

KENT Events holds its fourth annual bonfire and fireworks event at Quex Park Birchington, on Saturday, November 5, 2011.

The event supports charities Demelza House, AZAR which has close links with Tanzania, and Cancer Research UK.

There will be a funfair, licensed bar, refreshment stalls, and Kent soul-funk band EK1 who will be supported by local group The Cojones.

All this is all in addition to a 20-minute firework display provided by Theatrical Pyrotechnics taking place in front of Quex Manor House which provides a wonderful backdrop for the fantastic display and massive bonfire.

Gates open at 4pm, with live music from 6.30-7.30pm and 8-9pm, bonfire lit at 6.30pm, and fireworks from 7.30pm. The event will finish at 10pm.

To be in with a chance of winning a family ticket for two adults and two children (aged 3-13) just answer this question:

What date is the bonfire and fireworks event being held at Quex Park?

a) November 4
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To enter text BONFIRE (space) answer, name and address and send to 64343. Texts cost £1 plus standard network rates. Entries received after the closing date of October 27, 2011, will not be counted, but you may still be charged.

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Advance ticket prices are £5 adults and £4 children, children under three are free. Tickets on the night cost £7 adults and £6 children, children under three are free. If there is bad weather the event may be postponed for 24 hours, please see terms and conditions displayed at www.kentevents.org.uk for full details.

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News

WILDLIFE

Extinct short-haired bumblebees get return flight from Sweden

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A SPECIES of bumblebee which became extinct in Britain more than 20 years ago is preparing for its return to Kent.

The short-haired bumblebee was last recorded at Dungeness in 1988, and attempts to bring the bees back from New Zealand last year to reintroduce them in the UK proved unsuccessful.

Their decline was due to agricultural changes and the subsequent loss of flower-rich wild meadows.

But a Natural England-funded project, supported by the RSPB, the Bumblebee Conservation Trust and Hymettus Ltd, is now preparing essential habitat for the return of the insect.

Around 30 healthy queen bees will be brought over from Sweden for disease screening in spring next year.

Picture: DAVE GOULSON

BACK: Short-haired bumblebee

Preparations have been made at the RSPB's Dungeness reserve and farmland across Romney Marsh to create ideal conditions for the species to flourish.

Project leader Dr Nikki Gammans said: "Thanks to focused conservation efforts in Kent and East Sussex we are starting to see some of our rarest species spreading locally," she said.

"To create the right conditions for the short-haired bumblebees we have been working with farmers to encourage the pollen and nectar-rich wild flowers bumblebees rely on."

Bumblebees are essential in the pollination of plants and play an important part in the production of crops.

England's rarest bee, the shrill carder bee, has returned to Dungeness's RSPB reserve after a 25-year absence, and the large garden bumblebee has come back after 10 years.

The RSPB has been working with farmers in the area to create wildflower-rich habitats ready for the reintroduction of the short-haired bumblebee.

Dungeness reserve will be celebrating the bumblebee with a series of events in 2012.

■ **For news and sport see www.yourshepway.co.uk.**

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Downton Abbey fans can follow in the footsteps of their favourite characters on our private tour of Highclere Castle, near Newbury - film location for the hit TV series - before enjoying lunch in one of the castle's state rooms.

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4* Brook Honiley Court, Warwick - £145

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- Meals as stated

News

CHARITY

Ex-top cop on a disaster zone mission of mercy

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

DURING his time with the British Transport Police, retired Chief Superintendent David Hatcher faced the horrors of both the Paddington and Potters Bar rail crashes.

A total of 38 people were killed and hundreds more injured in the accidents, with the 61-year-old Maidstone resident one of the many emergency services personnel on the ground helping to deal with scenes of utter devastation.

But more than a decade after Paddington, Mr Hatcher continues to put his people skills to good use by supporting disaster victims worldwide through the ShelterBox charity.

"I've always had a desire to help people affected by disasters and ShelterBox is a practical way of doing that," he said.

"The major difference between train crashes and incidents like the Haiti earthquake is that the majority of people in crashes get their lives back in no time at all. It will take years for Haiti to recover, if it does."

GIVING AID: David Hatcher, centre front, with other volunteers for ShelterBox

Mr Hatcher has been to Haiti and the Philippines for ShelterBox, and recently returned from a two-week charity mission in the Brazilian city of Rio do Sul, which in April suffered severe flooding and landslides after receiving more than five times the usual rainfall.

The former Kent Police officer was part of a team helping displaced people by giving out survival packs containing a tent capable of withstanding a hurricane, thermal blankets, tools, colouring sets for children, cooking equipment, and more.

"When you're there, the majority of the time you're just getting on with the job," said Mr Hatcher. "It's no good feeling sorry and miserable for people because you're there to give them some hope, but when you're not with them it's emotional and I've shed tears on many an occasion.

"Those we help are absolutely knocked out by the gesture and can't conceive that someone has donated money to help them. Just when they think their world has ended they are given new optimism, and you can't describe their gratitude.

"Sadly the demand often outstrips the supply and you have to prioritise who you give the boxes to. The hardest thing is to turn people away; it's the worst decision anyone can possibly be asked to make."

Visit www.shelterbox.org or call 0300 0300 500 to donate.

■ **For more news stories see www.yourmaidstone.co.uk.**

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COMPETITION

Win! Ten pairs of shoes to share with your family or just enjoy for yourself

LADIES – your luck is in. To celebrate its 10th anniversary, Deichmann Shoes has teamed up with Archant KOS Media to offer you the chance to win 10 pairs of shoes.

That's one pair for every year Deichmann has been filling your wardrobes with fashionable, affordable footwear in the UK.

From chic knee-length winter boots to get autumn covered, to a seductive new pair of heels for the office Christmas party, you can take your pick. You'll never have to worry about what to wear again.

And it's not just your own wardrobe you can make sparkle with this fabulous prize. Deichmann does a great range of shoes for kids, and also the man in your life.

With more than 50 stores in the UK, you're never far from your nearest Deichmann. Plus, you can now also shop online – just visit www.deichmann-shoes.co.uk to browse Deichmann's eye-catching new autumn/winter collection.

To be in with a chance to win this fantastic prize, just answer the following simple question:

Which anniversary is Deichmann celebrating this year?
A) Fifth
B) Twenty fifth
C) Tenth

To enter text SHOES (space) answer, name and address and send to 64343. Texts cost £1 plus standard network rates.

Entries received after the closing date of October 27, 2011, will not be counted but you may still be charged.

Your number may be used by Archant KOS Media. If you do not wish to receive information on any other products or services, please text EXIT at the end of your message. The service provider is JMedia UK Ltd, SE1 0QX, telephone 0844 800 1188.

Terms and Conditions: 1) The prize winner is entitled to 10 pairs of shoes, redeemable on Deichmann's e-store at www.deichmann.com/GB/en/shop/welcome.html. 2) The prize will be issued as 10 x £30 voucher codes to the value of £300, to be used on the Deichmann e-store. 3) If the vouchers are not used by September 1, 2012, they will expire and will be therefore rendered useless. 4) Vouchers have no cash value. 5) Only one voucher can be used per transaction. 6) If the full value of any voucher is not redeemed, then the remaining value is forfeited. 7) Should you wish to purchase something more than the value of your voucher, you may use your own money to make up the difference. 8) Deichmann's e-store gives you free postage and packaging, and also free returns. 9) The winner will be called to arrange how to claim their prize. 10) Closing date for entries is October 27, 2011. 11) All shoes on the e-store are subject to availability. 12) Vouchers are not redeemable in-store. 13) Judge's decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into. 14) Vouchers not to be used in conjunction with any other offer. 15) Entrants must be over 16 years of age. 16) This promotion is organised by Deichmann Shoes UK Limited, 18 Main Street, Lubenham, Market Harborough, Leicestershire LE16 9TF. 17) Normal Archant KOS Media rules apply.

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ARCHANT KOS MEDIA

News

SPORT

World Cup ultimate goal for county's top football flickers

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

KENT'S finest Subbuteo table football players head to the National League championships this weekend knowing that a good performance could secure them a place in the England World Cup team.

Flickers from the Kent Invicta team will be up against the cream of British Subbuteo talent as they battle it out for league glory and a shot in the international tournament.

Subbuteo was originally invented and produced in Tunbridge Wells in the 1940s, but has spread across the globe to such an extent that it has been officially named a sport rather than a game since 2010.

At the height of its popularity during the 1970s, there were more than 300 replica teams available to play with, and it is believed that 90 per cent of boys in the UK owned a set.

The current Kent set-up can boast some of Britain's top players with the Invicta team being home to the current top junior player, 10-year-old Coen Townsend, as well as the number one female player Maria Carmo. Also on-board is Miguel Pereira, who is considered to be one of England's top flickers and is currently in the world's top 100 players.

GOAL: Coen Townsend in action

On one weekend every season the premier players meet at the British Gas Energy Academy in Leicester, and fight it out to see who is England's finest finger footballer.

This year, the usual format of a knockout tournament has been replaced by a series of leagues played over Saturday and Sunday, October 15-16.

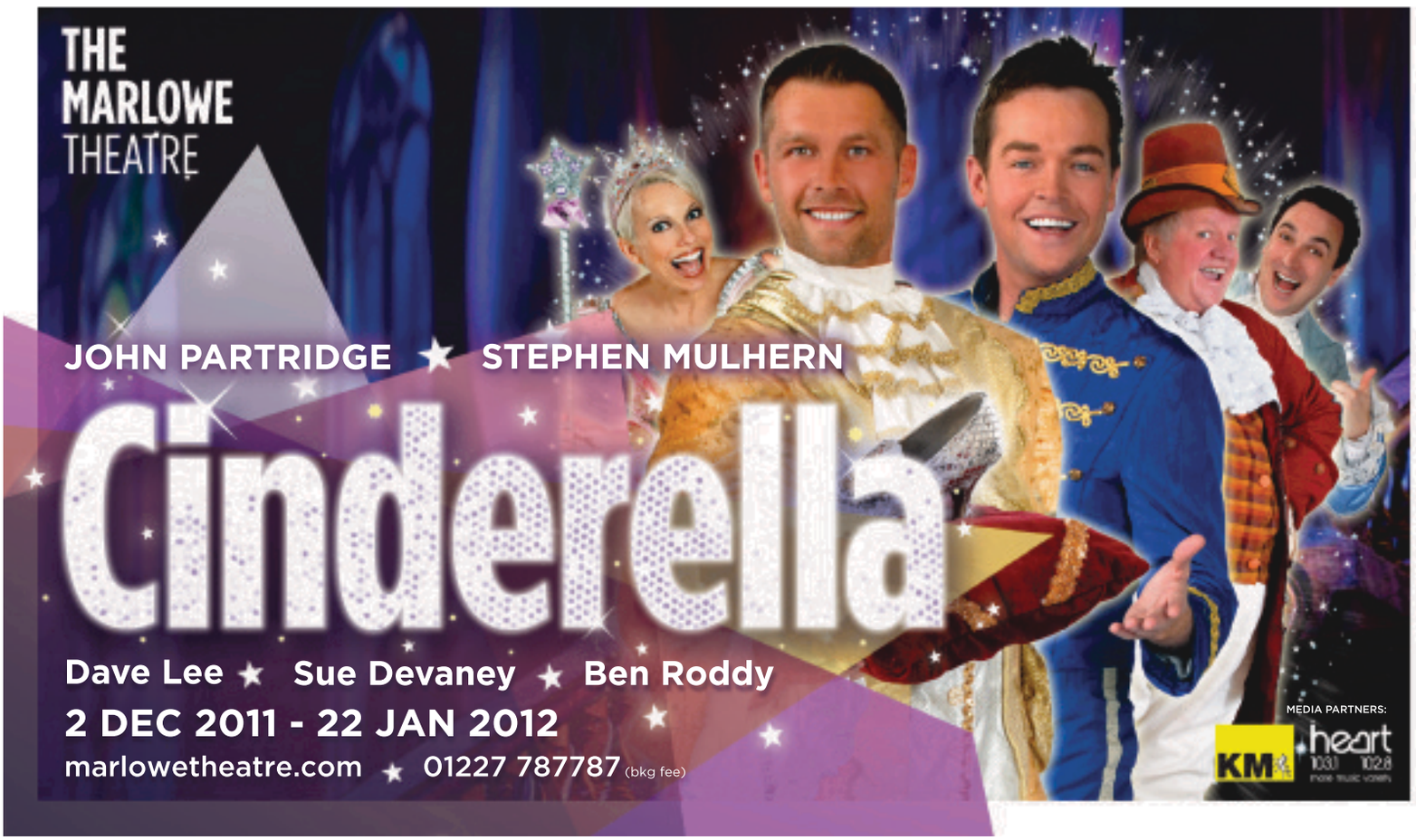
Where players finish in those leagues determine who has qualified for the World Cup teams for men, women, veterans, youth and juniors.

Coen Townsend has already gained some World Cup experience at junior level after thrashing team Germany 10-0 at a recent international tournament and is looking to progress to the youth level squad.

Much like the real game, there is plenty of glamour with the table football teams as they head off to tournaments both in Europe and further afield.

In fact the Kent Invicta team were represented at the Bologna International Major in Italy just four months ago.

At this year's event, the top leagues receive sponsorship and every division winner gets a trophy. Promotion and relegation will apply ahead of next year tournament, so players can aim to advance through the leagues in time for the World Cups in 2012 and 2014.



KENT **REMEMBERED**

Picture: JOE HARMAN COLLECTION – DOVER MUSEUM

LAND AND SEA: The Night Train was loaded onto special ferries to make the Channel crossing

The first train service from Dover to France

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

SEVENTY-FIVE years ago this week, a new train ferry made its inaugural crossing from Dover to France, launching the only direct rail link from Britain to the Continent.

Surviving for 44 years, the Night Ferry, an international sleeper train, was carried across the Channel on three specially designed vessels, providing dignitaries, VIPs and even spies with plush journeys from London to Paris and later Brussels, while they slept.

Reports also suggest that Adolf Hitler demanded the dock at Dunkirk remain intact during World War Two so he could travel to the UK on the Night Ferry.

The fleet of blue-coloured sleeper cars, belonging to La Compagnie des Wagons-Lits – operator of the famous Orient Express – travelled from London Victoria to Dover where they were carried across the Channel to Dunkirk on specially built ferries before continuing on to Pairs.

Each overnight train carried up to five and sometimes six sleeping cars.

A special dock was constructed at Dover to allow the ships to load and unload their cargo of railway vehicles at any time, regardless of the tide.

When the train was loaded onto the ferry, the cars were split up equally to ensure the vessels maintained their balance at sea.

But in 1980, the pressure of advances in overseas travel saw the final nail in the coffin for the luxurious Night Ferry.

ABOARD: Anniversary book tells the story of the Night Ferry

This year sees the 75th anniversary of its launch and to mark the occasion, the International Railway Preservation Society (IRPS) has published a book called Night Ferry 1936-1980.

Illustrated with unpublished photographs and memorabilia, it will complete the story of the lavish mode of transport which catered for the rich and famous.

Mike Collins, from the IRPS, said the organisation had searched for new accounts and never-before-seen pictures.

"The significant part is that we have information from both England and France, and this book is being published in French and English," he said.

"We have accounts from people who travelled on the last run in 1980 and those who worked on the trains and ferries. The new train was in effect Britain's only direct link with the Continent and was to run until October, 1980, apart from the years 1939 until 1947 when World War Two brought the service to a temporary halt."

The Night Ferry ran as usual on September 3, 1939, but the French sleeper cars and crews were returned to France and the service suspended.

In 1947 the service resumed from Paris and then in both directions between France and the UK. In 1957, a through sleeping car from London to Brussels was added to the service and in 1967 a link to Basle, although this was withdrawn soon after.

Just over a decade later, the Night Ferry, however, ceased altogether.

Mr Collins said: "It stopped service in 1980. Other transport was developing; plans for the Channel Tunnel were moving forward; and the age of the equipment was against it."

The IRPS book is being launched at Dover Museum on October 19 and at the port of Dunkirk on October 21.

DFDS Seaways, the current operator on the Dover to Dunkirk route is supporting the event, and the IRPS would also like to reach members of the public in and around Dover associated with the ferry dock, train ferries and the Night Ferry train service.

To get involved email mike.collins@irps-wl.org.uk. Night Ferry 1936-1980 is priced at £17.99.

■ **For more news and sport see www.yourdover.co.uk.**

GREG CLARK MP
will be in...
Rusthall

Greg will be the guest speaker at Rusthall Village Meeting on Friday 21 October 2011 starting at 7pm in the United Reformed Church Hall. Everyone welcome to come along.

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OPINION

Government's poor bill of health

Mike Eddy, a governor at health watchdog Kent LINk, fears proposals in the new Health and Social Care Bill will leave the health service with a bitter pill to swallow

THE last 12 months have been a roller-coaster ride for health service professionals and for those of us who keep a watching brief on the NHS.

The Government published its Health and Social Care Bill soon after stitching the Coalition together.

Its proposals bore no relation to anything either the Conservatives or the Lib-Dems had said on health before the election.

Doctors and nurses attacked the first draft of the bill. Then the Government seemed to have a change of heart and set up a 'listening exercise'. That produced some sensible changes and earlier this year I wrote in in this paper that the future of the NHS looked less worrying.

Now it seems that whatever was heard through the listening exercise has gone in one ear of Government and out the other.

As I write, the House of Lords is debating the Health and Social Care Bill. Crossbench peers like Lord David Owen and Lib-Dem peers led by Baroness Shirley Williams have joined with Labour peers to oppose the bill and to propose the establishment of a committee to examine the Government's proposals in detail. That will at least delay the progress of the bill, but it will not necessarily stop it.

The bill, as currently framed, would remove the secretary of state for health's power over the National Health Service – a return to the original form of the bill. In other words the NHS would no longer be a national body responsible to national politicians who can be judged on their performance at the ballot box.

The Government claims it wants to see more local decision making in the health system; and there is nothing wrong with that, indeed there's a lot of good in it.

But by removing the powers of the secretary of state there will be no-one to maintain a national overview of the system. Inspection powers will be transferred to the Care Quality Commission, though that body is already creaking under the weight of its existing responsibilities.

Of course, we are dealing with a bill, not with an Act of Parliament, so it should be possible to change things as the bill is subject to scrutiny in the Houses of Parliament.

However, uniquely, other proposals in the bill are being put into action right now.

The primary care trusts which used to work out what medical services were needed for their local area are being disbanded.

The consortia of local GPs who are supposed to take over are being set up – before the bill becomes law. That is denial of Parliament's rights. And more importantly, it is a denial of everyone's rights as voters.

Uniquely, proposals in the bill are being put into action right now

The Health and Social Care Bill does not reflect the policies of either of the parties that form the Government, and yet the proposals are being put into place before the bill has been passed, let alone before being signed into law by the Queen.

Whatever happens this week in Parliament, our NHS is at risk of being broken up. Commentators in the media have compared what is happening in health to the privatisation of the railways.

If the health service goes the same way, that'll be good news for a handful of businessmen and their bankers and bad news for the rest of us.

If you are interested in joining the volunteers who support Kent LINk visit www.thekentlink.co.uk or write to The Kent LINk, FREEPOST NAT17761, Folkestone, CT19 4BR.

■ **Mike Eddy is a governor for Kent LINk.**

KOS COMMENT

Food for thought for the health service

WHILE clinical treatment in hospitals is of course a top priority, one of the simplest and most effective forms of care – a healthy, decent meal – has great importance.

No-one denies that NHS staff are under increasing pressure, but this shouldn't mean denying elderly people the basic right of having a good meal.

Kent's hospitals were not the worst in binning untouched food, but the figure is still too high. It needs to be reduced, not only because it's a waste of money the NHS doesn't have, but food is one of the simplest ways of helping a patient's recovery.

Gurkhas offering an example for us all

JUST weeks after a defence minister criticised the Gurkha community for overwhelming his constituency, the brave Nepalese brigade have been hailed as the most self-reliant, hard-working group in Britain. Let's hope others take a leaf out of their book and show that pride these soldiers are so respected for.

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Boat house, Scotney
by Mary Mackins, Tunbridge Wells

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A blind eye to our black past

THERE was a recent article in KoS (October 9), headlined 'Black history celebrations cultural focus'.

It stated this 'annual festival, which is held nationally, celebrates the diverse cultures and traditions that have made the UK the multicultural society it is'. It then went on to list some events in Medway – and only in Medway – which are all cultural.

But this is supposed to be Black History Month. Africans do have a history, contrary to what most people believe.

And not only in Africa, but here in the UK; our first written and archaeological records of Africans here, those of the African regiment which was part of the conquering Roman military. And Septimius Severus, the Roman emperor of north African origins, was buried here.

A scrutiny of parish records, kept by the Church of England until the 1830s, records many baptisms, marriages and burials of Africans. Sadly, as far as I know, the only research on these records in Kent is that carried out by a volunteer on the records kept at Canterbury Cathedral. He found hundreds of entries, dating from the 16th century.

A few years ago I asked the Canterbury Family History Society to attempt to follow up on some of these entries, but to this day they have not done so.

That indicates to me the enormous reluctance of people in Kent to admit that Britain has been 'multi-ethnic' for centuries and that that they might have had an African or Asian ancestor.

But many people must have, if for no other reason than that east Kent has many ports and up to 35 per cent of the crews of merchant vessels were from the colonies.

They were discharged when the ship docked, so some might well have settled in the ports. And, of course, from the 17th century it was very, very fashionable to have a black servant or two in your household, so how many of our great houses had such servants?

Marika Sherwood, Oare

MP's crossed line over tolls

SADLY, the Tory-led government intends to hike the tolls at the Dartford Crossing by an eye-watering 66 per cent. In a town where most people think the tolls should be scrapped altogether – not raised – it's hard to articulate the anger this has generated locally.

Dartford Labour Party is fully aware of that anger – we sympathise with it and have been working hard to represent those feelings. Indeed, we believe it is profoundly wrong in such difficult economic times to hit hard-pressed families and struggling businesses with such an inflation-busting toll increase.

So Labour activists have spent recent weeks collecting support for a petition to present to Dartford's Tory MP Gareth Johnson opposing the increase.

It wasn't difficult – local people welcomed the chance to signal their disapproval and we very quickly gathered getting on for 400 signatures.

We've also made our views clear to the Government directly that Labour vehemently opposes any form of toll increase.

What's really noticeable, however, is a sense amongst local people of having been let down. During 2010's general election campaign I vividly recall Mr Johnson saying he'd campaign for the tolls to be scrapped – he even repeated that undertaking in his maiden speech to the House of Commons.

People won't forget that and they certainly won't forgive it.

John Adams, Labour councillor for Stone

Why are our cops in Kabul?

I WAS amazed when I saw your article about Kent police being sent to train police in Kabul.

What is this about?

For one, we don't have enough police of our own on the streets, but they can be sent away at our expense to have a virtual holiday.

And two, why Kent Police? They are without doubt the worst police force in Europe, they never do anything here so why send them anywhere unless its just to get rid of them.

Stewart May, Deal

Mixed schools spell trouble

A SHOP at the top of St John's Hill in Sevenoaks, currently under refurbishment, was for some time displaying a peculiar notice: "MAKE DELIVERY'S TO SIDE ENTERENCE".

This notice was the work of someone who clearly does not understand the difference between a genitive singular and a nominative plural; this is an increasingly common phenomenon nowadays, and I am sure that this is because the people concerned went to co-educational schools.

Certainly this particular error was noticeably less frequent in the days before mixed schools became so commonplace.

Having said that, though, one wonders what on earth is meant by an 'ENTERENCE', and I am wondering if possibly this is some kind of gadget that may perhaps be sold in one of the junk shops that have appeared at both ends of St John's Hill in recent times.

All will no doubt be revealed in due course.

John Humphrey, Sevenoaks

Emergency of A21 dualling

HOW irritating a condition requiring the dualling of the Tonbridge to Pembury section was not attached to the permission for the fantastic new shiny Pembury hospital.

Equally annoying is that these much-needed improvements have been thwarted by opponents to them, and the consequences of the previous government's reckless spending.

The Castle Hill stretch is regularly and severely congested, a wholly unacceptable position on a major strategic trunk road, a problem I am informed that has become more so since the full hospital opened a few weeks ago.

Worse still, this treacherous road has a significant accident record including, sadly, a track record of fatalities.

The campaign for dualling must continue. The A21 reference group of local MPs, local authority leaders and others meets again in mid-October. I will be there.

Nicolas Heslop, cabinet member for planning and transportation Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council

Remembering their sacrifice

ON Sunday, November 13, throughout the land there will be Remembrance Sunday wreath-laying ceremonies at which all those gathered will say "We will remember them".

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal leads up to that in asking that we all support the members of our Armed Forces who are injured and traumatised in many conflicts throughout the world, in the service of their country. The appeal is the primary source of funding for that support.

This year's appeal will focus on support for the Afghan generation of the Armed Forces family. May I ask your readers to be as supportive and generous as they have been in the past and that any (aged 16 or over) who may be able to spare an hour or two collecting call 0800 085 5924.

Cllr Elizabeth Thomas, mayor of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

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Overseas market opportunities on the table at Business Week Live

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

INTERNATIONAL trade is a proven route to business growth and now is a key time for Kent businesses to take advantage of opportunities that exist in overseas markets.

And the opportunities are set to come under the microscope at this year's Business Week Live event, which takes place on Wednesday, October 26, at the Dover Cruise Exhibition Centre.

Emerging areas for businesses to move into include Flanders in Belgium and parts of The Netherlands.

The EU-funded 2 Seas Trade project, led by Kent County Council, can provide free support to local firms in accessing opportunities in Europe.

Speaking at Business Week Live, Andrew Bowles, KCC's deputy cabinet member for localism and partnerships, will explain why the county council and its partner organisations are working together on the Kent International Business (KIB) initiative.

Under the programme, organisations across the county can provide support to enable the county's firms to take their products or services to new markets abroad as a way of boosting the local economy.

Another speaker, Yan Bechet, international commercial manager for HSBC Bank in Canterbury, deals with international business on a daily basis.

Bechet will present some of the evidence for why doing business overseas really does pay and why Kent businesses should consider looking beyond the domestic market as part of their growth strategy.

With a background in securing EU funding for Kent, Steve Samson, European policy and projects officer from KCC's international affairs group, will explain how Kent businesses can benefit from connections across the Channel.

According to analysts working on the 2 Seas project, businesses that trade internationally are more likely to:

- improve their productivity
- see growth not possible domestically

- tend to survive recessions better through spreading the risk of a downturn in a single market, thus increasing the resilience of their revenues and profits
- increase the commercial lifespan of their products and services
- increase the returns on their investment in research and development
- improve their financial performance
- expand the sales of existing products when the UK market is saturated
- become more innovative in new and existing products to compete internationally
- gain more buying power with existing and/or new suppliers through higher sales and achieve other economies of scale not possible domestically
- create better-quality jobs on average and provide more opportunities for staff development and retention

Among the areas identified by the project where Kent businesses could make inroads is West Flanders, in Belgium.

The province's capital, Bruges, has been a centre of trade since the early Middle Ages and now offers a range of business opportunities thanks to constant business innovation.

The two spearheads in the province's economy are the seaports of Zeebrugge

Continued on page 25

FINANCE

Olympian joins firm in celebrating 25 years

MPW Insurance Brokers Ltd celebrated a quarter of a century in business at a reception with its clients and guest speaker Olympian Steve Backley OBE.

The independent broker held a business lunch close to its offices at Turkey Mill's Orangery, in Maidstone, with 150 guests.

Company chairman Andy Webb said: "We were delighted to share our 25th anniversary with some of our most loyal and important clients and have been overwhelmed by the positive feedback we have received.

"Steve Backley's presentation was perfectly tailored to our business audience and provided a motivational insight into the preparation required to win Olympic medals, which proved to be of great interest with London 2012 on our doorstep."

MPW was set up by Steve McMurdo and Andy Webb, who saw a gap in the market for insurance brokers providing a personal but professional service, combined with a close knowledge of each client and their business.

Twenty-five years on and they are looking to the future, having just been awarded the Chartered Insurance Brokers title following their recent rebrand and website launch.

CHARITY

Funeral director rewarded for his hard work with vice-president role

STEPHEN Tester, from funeral directors Tester & Jones in Crowborough, has been appointed vice-president of The Rotary Club of the town.

Tester, who runs the company with Glenys Jones, has been a member of Rotary in the town for a number of years and has held various roles in the past including community service and fund-raising chairman.

"As a firm we are very much part of the local community and being a member of Rotary is an extension of that," he said.

"Rotary is a great group of people and we do a variety of activities to benefit the people of Crowborough and the surrounding area."

Throughout the year, The Rotary Club of Crowborough supports many events including the Crowborough Hospital Fete and the Crowborough Carnival, as well as individuals. It has an annual Christmas appeal which last year raised £3,590.

Recently it donated money to the Groombridge-based Paralympian Will Bayley. He has recently secured a place in the GB team for the London 2012 Paralympics and, as the world table-tennis number two, is a gold-medal prospect

Bayley was born with a rare congenital disorder that affects the use of his limbs. When he was diagnosed with cancer at the age of eight, his grandmother bought him a table-tennis table to help him through his recovery. He started to play competitively aged 12.

FOOD AND DRINK

Produced in Kent keen to get message across

THE produce of the Garden of England will be highlighted in an address at this year's Business Week Live event on Wednesday, October 26.

Julie Monkman, manager of Produced in Kent, will be talking about the high standard of food and drink which comes from the county and its importance to the local economy.

She said: "The importance of the food and drink sector in Kent cannot be underestimated.

"Kent has been known as the Garden of England for centuries and this wonderful brand has been updated and revitalised by Visit Kent's Kent Contemporary campaign with great success over the last 18 months.

"The food-and-drink sector in Kent is making a fantastic contribution to Kent's economy. Since joining Produced in Kent just over three years ago, I have been lucky enough to work with many food and drink businesses that we have helped to develop and grow.

"Food and drink is one of the main reasons visitors come to Kent and it's our job to make sure they know where to go. It's also our role to encourage Kent people to buy their food and drink locally, from Kent businesses. Our message here is 'Support Kent and buy local'."

HAVE YOU GOT A BUSINESS STORY? Telephone editorial on 01303 817181 or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

So just what is credit easing?

By Nick Falcon
editorial@archant.co.uk

IT'S a term that is new to most of us – while there can't be many who can genuinely claim to know precisely what Chancellor George Osborne was proposing earlier this month when he announced that his Government would be adopting a policy of 'credit easing' in a bid to steer the country away from a double-dip recession.

The policy is intended to "inject money directly into the parts of the economy that need it, such as small businesses", according to Osborne.

In essence, it appears to be a more targeted version of quantitative easing, the process started in 2009 by which the Bank of England credited its own account with money it had credited *ex nihilo* (out of nothing).

It then used this money to buy financial assets such as government and corporate bonds from banks and other financial institutions.

Those purchases were intended to give the institutions the reserves necessary to allow them to create new money by lending more. In theory, the increased money supply would stimulate the economy. It is a moot point as to whether it worked. A Bank of England report said the policy had provided "significant" benefit to growth and helped GDP rise by up to 2 per cent, but others say it is not possible to credit that growth to quantitative easing.

LENDING: The full details of credit easing will not be revealed until the Autumn Statement next month

And now it, or something similar in the form of credit easing, is back. So is there any difference between the two concepts, or are they simply differing forms of jargon for the same principle?

It depends how Osborne structures his policy, but the main difference is that this time round the Government will buy bonds issued by companies (corporate bonds) rather than government bonds.

Such bonds tend to be issued by larger companies, but if SMEs – the intended beneficiaries – are to gain from credit easing, small-company loans and overdrafts could, for example, be repackaged as 'securitisations', which would then be bought by the Government (through the Bank of England or, perhaps, a specially-created vehicle).

Another important difference of the new policy is that it circumnavigates the involvement of the banks.

The whole process – or potential process – is too complex to detail in its entirety here, but how might we expect it to work?

Phil Beavan, of High Growth Kent, who will be speaking at this month's Business Week Live, said: "The answer is that we don't exactly know – details will not be revealed until the Autumn Statement on November 29, and at present no one knows when it will be implemented – but it's a pretty safe bet that we are a few months off.

"What is obvious is that headlines regarding the Government 'taking banks out of the loop and lending directly to small businesses' are, perhaps, a little over-zealous.

"From what we have been able to glean thus far, the policy will involve the Government borrowing money to purchase bonds from companies and, yes, the Treasury is actually talking about developing a corporate-bond market for small and medium-sized businesses.

"If that is the reality, then what we think of as SMEs will not be able to participate. The issuing of these bonds may well need to be assessed by the rating agencies and issuing of such securities will, by necessity, involve corporate finance advisers and associated fees.

"Perhaps in recognition of this, the Government has suggested that it may also purchase books of loan assets advanced by banks to smaller businesses; in other words, allowing the banks to advance loans that they would not ordinarily allow which they can then package up and sell to the Government.

"The theory is that the risk of these loans would then sit with the Government, not the bank.

"The concern is that if the banks can pass the risk on to the Government, then they may not be as diligent in assessing credit risk as perhaps they could be... which is kind of what got us into this trouble in the first place.

"It is, however, something of an admission that the current structure for lending to SMEs is not working – something that most SMEs are only too well aware of, just not something that our political masters seem hugely keen to admit.

"So in short, it is a matter of watch this space: the scheme is not available yet and the details of when it will be available and what it will look like are almost two months off."

Raising a glass to increased turnover

BREWER Shepherd Neame has announced its turnover was up 5.2 per cent to £121.3 million in the 12 months to June 25 when compared with the previous year's figure.

Share values were also up and beer sales increased by 4 per cent against a UK-wide decline of 7.1 per cent.

Brands performing particularly well include Spitfire, Bishops Finger and Asahi Super Dry.

Figures for recent months are also encouraging, with beer volume up 6.9 per cent from June until mid-September.

Chairman Miles Templeman said the Faversham company enjoyed a particularly strong second half of the year.

He said: "This is another strong performance from Shepherd Neame as we have achieved record turnover and record beer volume. We have improved the offer in our pubs, enjoyed the benefits of recent capital investment in our estate, grown our beer sales and invested to develop our marketing capability.

"However, the general economic and industry outlook remains challenging, with decline in consumer income and inflation in our cost base.

"We will continue to pursue our long-term strategy of investing fully in our brands and pubs so as to retain the strength and identity of the business. I have every confidence that we will continue to deliver value for shareholders with dividend growth and a strong balance sheet for future expansion."

DRINL TO THE FUTURE: Jonathan Neame

Unusual factors affecting sales included a decline due to the cold winter, but a boost came due to the royal wedding in April.

Chief executive Jonathan Neame said: "This has been a good year in a very challenging consumer climate. Our beer volume, food and accommodation sales have outperformed the market and our brand and pub portfolios have become stronger. We are confident that investment in building our marketing team will deliver more effective consumer engagement in the future.

"Our strategy is clear, consistent and focused on delivering long-term sustainable growth. Our balance sheet is strong, underlined by the recent pub-estate revaluation. Our cash flow from operating activities is sufficient both to pay down debt and be able to acquire new assets in the same year.

"We employ people and enjoy partnerships with licensees, suppliers and customers who are highly committed to the success of Shepherd Neame. This support enables the company to perform at very high levels, as evidenced by the number of outstanding awards won this year.

"However, the general economic and industry outlook remains challenging as we face the twin issues of decline in consumer incomes and inflation in our cost base. But, despite these adverse trends, we believe we are pursuing a strategy that will make our beer and pub business a stronger performer for the future."

Fit to the core

STAFF and human-resources services provider Stafforce Recruitment has enhanced its information and guidance programme for local employers with an inaugural Fit 4 Business free breakfast event directed at the Kent and south-east London area.

To be held at Charlton Athletic Football Club on Tuesday, from 8am-10.15am, it will address reducing costs, increasing productivity and lifting operating efficiencies through three core 'fitness' themes – legislation and compliance, lean operations and staff health and financial well-being.

Ports open up new opportunities on the Continent

Continued from page 24

and Ostend. Zeebrugge is one of the largest ports in the world with regards to car transport and a key port for liquefied natural gas.

The seaports are supported by an extensive network of inland waterways, roads and railways. In addition, the region boasts two international airports.

The economic success of West Flanders is the result of a wide portfolio of activities and expertise, as well as its open economy. These range from industry, technology and leading industrial design to agriculture, frozen vegetables and fishing, as well as renewable energy, machine manufacturing and textiles.

The high education level and the work ethic of the well-trained, multilingual and productive employees in West Flanders, as well as the favourable SME entrepreneurial climate, are also highly appreciated by both local and foreign companies, say experts.

Meanwhile, East Flanders is one of the world's leading regions for life sciences.

Apart from biotechnology, East Flanders also profiles itself in sectors like information and communication technology, multimedia, semiconductors, medical software and environmental technology.

Because of its strategic situation, the south-west of The Netherlands has been among the most popular regions for business investments.

Companies with international markets, logistics, trade and manufacturing process benefit from the convenient situation close to connections.

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Business Week Live

Dover Exhibition Centre, Kent. Wednesday, October 26th, 2011

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With more than 100 exhibitors and near on 1000 attendees expected at Business Week Live this year, the 2011 show looks forward to breaking new ground and offering Kent- based companies essential and real commercial opportunities.

Not just a meet and greet event like so many others, Business Week Live will offer you the chance to connect with new customers, strengthen existing client relationships, and create the opportunity to build strategic partnerships and collaborations with overseas companies.

If you only attend one event this year make sure you choose wisely, put Business Week Live into your diary for October 26th, 2011.

If you only have time and budget to exhibit at one event this year make sure it's one that delivers tangible results.

Speakers and seminars

Please note that the conference and workshop programmes listed below are subject to change prior to the show

10.30 M J Allen One of the UK's top companies talks about the importance of international contracts and how to go about winning them.

11.15 Simon Nicholson, Barclays Bank Advice on how to go about borrowing money from the banks if you are part of a small to medium enterprise - with an emphasis on the fact that the banks are still in the business of lending cash.

12.00 Gordon Marsden MP Talk by the Labour MP who is a member of the Innovation, Universities and Skills Select Committee, and is particularly concerned with regional regeneration and improving the skills of Britain's workforce.

12.45 Institute of Directors Cross-Channel co-operation is the theme of this address which will look at the European market.

13.30 Steve Samson, Kent County Council The local authority will be looking at the unique position that Kent occupies and why it makes working in close co-operation with our Continental neighbours such an attractive business proposition.

14.15 Simon Burgess An examination of public sector contracting and the way companies can gain from the opportunities which are currently out there.

15.00 Peter Hobbs, Channel Chamber The chamber of commerce which represents Dover and other east Kent towns examines the best way for businesses to work together.

15.45 Charles Buchanan, Manston Airport A look at the opportunities for business through aviation in one of 6th growing UK airports.

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Government launches credit easing scheme for local businesses

Find out more at BusinessWeekLive

- Credit easing - What is it?
- Are there any precedents?
- Is it any different to quantitative easing?
- Why is it being introduced?
- When will it happen?

BUSINESSES across the county have broadly welcomed news of a multi-billion pound programme designed to avoid a new credit crunch, announced by Chancellor George Osborne.

The new mechanism of "credit easing" was unveiled at the Conservative Party conference amidst worries that bank lending could seize up again in the wake of fears over the Eurozone.

Mr Osborne has put forward previously untried means to attempt to get the economy moving.

Credit easing could see tens of billions of pounds made available to small and medium enterprises as they would be able to bypass the banks when it comes to loans.

Andrew Alves, development manager of the Kent and Medway Federation of Small Businesses said: "The credit easing measure could be a significant development that would open up a new finance stream to viable businesses.

"The FSB hope this scheme will be run through an arms-length organisation that has the procedures and processes already set up, such as UKFI (UK Financial Investments Ltd, a Government economic management body), so that it can be implemented as soon as possible.

"With 30 per cent of businesses believing they missed their growth opportunity in the last year as a result of not getting finance from their bank, we look forward to working with government to ensure that it can benefit the very smallest of businesses that want to invest and grow."

The funding for credit easing will come from the Treasury, but details on how the scheme will operate are still at an early stage. It is most likely it would see small business loans being packaged together and guaranteed by the Government.

These packaged securities could then be sold in the bond markets – similar to the corporate bond structure in place in the USA.

Experts believe the Bank of England will be tasked with running the programme - which is in essence a way for the Treasury to inject credit more directly into small businesses, without relying on the banks.

By circumventing the banks, it's hoped that the rates of interest charged on loans will fall significantly, and better reflect the current rock-bottom Bank of England base rate.

Mr Alves also added a note of caution to his optimism.

"The Chancellor announced some welcome measures to help small businesses," he said.

"However, it is difficult to regard the Conservative Party as the party of small businesses only two days after it introduced a raft of new and costly employment regulations which will hinder small firms growth plans and burden them with yet more red tape.

"The FSB also welcome steps to help inject money into small firms, but need to see more detail so look forward to working with the Government on this."

- **To find out more about how credit easing may be able to benefit your company, book your free place at Archant KOS Media's Business Week Live exhibition and conference.**

Workshop programme

10.45 Duncan Murray of Directline Structures looks at the sustainable way to save money when it comes to new buildings.

11.15 Wayne Wright of WSQ Solutions examines how businesses can grow despite the current tough economic climate and its accompanying uncertain outlook.

11.45 Penelope Kimber from Thanet College talks about the best way forward when it comes to training.

12.15 Julie Monkman of Produced in Kent demonstrates the importance of locally produced food and drink in the Garden of England.

13.00 Peter Smith representing the Channel Chamber looks into the subject of sustainable energy and the options currently open.

13.30 Martin Tanner of ADM Computing examines the opportunities offered by IT systems.

14.00 Victoria Pomeroy from the Turner Centre talks about how art projects can help to regenerate a town.

14.30 Philip Beven of Innovation and Growth examines the best way forward for businesses.

15.00 David Hall from Businessflow examines the competitive advantage offered by ISO accreditation which regulates best practise in business.

Speed networking timetable

10.30am - 45 minutes duration
11.30am - 45 minutes duration
1.00pm - 45 minutes duration
2.00pm - 45 minutes duration
3.00pm - 45 minutes duration

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Keep Kent Working!
It's jobs for Kent

Apprentice of year crowned by gas firm

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

BRITISH Gas is doing its bit for the economy by training an average of 130 engineers a year from the firm's Energy Academy in Dartford.

Opened in 2006 by then-Education Secretary Alan Johnson, the centre supports the recruitment, induction and training of apprentices and trainees who work throughout London and the South East.

And last week the firm, which invests £25 million per year into the development and training of its staff, crowned the academy's Stacey Tear as its apprentice of the year.

The 27-year-old received the accolade from Dartford Tory MP Gareth Johnson due to her hard work and professional approach during her 18-month apprenticeship. She was also part of a team of engineers who helped build classrooms at a school for underprivileged children in India.

Mr Johnson said: "It was a privilege to meet Stacey and it makes me very proud of what is being done here in the Dartford constituency.

"The training and skills I saw in the academy are the things that will see the private sector help our economy grow.

"I am particularly impressed by the training in new technologies such as smart meters, which will help put customers in control of their energy bills and save energy and money. It is clear Dartford will be at the heart of this revolution."

Last year more than 200 apprentices were trained at the Energy Academy, which has five sister sites in Leicester, Hamilton, Leeds, Thatcham, and Tredegar.

It measures 30,000 square feet and is large enough to accommodate 130 apprentices at any one time.

Academy manager John Timoney said: "The range of training we provide here builds on our reputation as a centre of excellence for training British Gas engineers.

"Stacey has worked hard to be the apprentice of the year and is an excellent role model. I congratulate her on this great achievement, which is a testament to her high standard of work and positive attitude during her apprenticeship.

"She is a fantastic asset to British Gas."

Meanwhile, four former trainees at Dungeness B nuclear power station on the Romney Marsh have successfully completed their four-year apprenticeship programmes.

Tom Quartermain, Stephen Smith, Thomas Bartrum and Matthew Hall made the trip to the International Motorcycle Museum in Coventry to pick up their graduation certificates alongside 39 colleagues from EDF Energy's seven other power plants.

Dr Andy Spurr, managing director of nuclear generation business at the firm, said: "I know how much work these guys have put in over the last four years to get to where they are today, so I was determined that we should properly mark their accomplishments with our own graduation ceremony. They should be very proud of what they have achieved thus far."

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good news story email steve.knight@archant.co.uk or give him a call on 01303 817136.

BRIGHT SPARK: British Gas winner Stacey Tear with Dartford MP Gareth Johnson

Legal eagles aim high with recruits

REGIONAL law firm Cripps Harries Hall has recruited eight trainee solicitors for its Tunbridge Wells office.

Five of the new recruits come from Kent or Sussex, which the company says demonstrates its commitment to developing local talent.

They will now embark upon a two-year programme which will see them gain experience in a wide range of legal disciplines before qualifying as solicitors.

Cripps has also announced the retention of six newly-qualified solicitors on completion of their training contracts with the firm.

Director of human resources and development, Alan Geaney, said: "During these challenging times, we have pursued a policy of retaining our talented people whenever possible.

"We are delighted to have placed six newly qualified solicitors and welcomed an additional eight trainee solicitors to the firm. We see our trainees as an investment for the future and our training programme is geared to give them the experience they need to reach the top."

Aspiring landlords invited to brewery

FAVERSHAM-based brewer Shepherd Neame is offering aspiring entrepreneurs with a flair for hospitality the chance to run their own pub.

The company is holding an open day on Monday, October 24, where potential licensees can talk to experts about the advantages of a career as their own boss behind the bar.

Tenanted operations manager Greg Wallis said: "Becoming a pub tenant with Shepherd Neame can be a low-cost, low-risk way to launch a business. Shepherd Neame tenants benefit from a complete training package and extensive business and technical support.

"Each is his or her own boss with the power and confidence to make decisions, while enjoying the advice and backing of a partner with more than 300 years' experience."

Shepherd Neame, which is located at 17 Court Street, Faversham, is Britain's oldest brewer and is responsible for such ales as Spitfire, Bishop's Finger, 1698, Master Brew and Canterbury Jack. It operates an estate of more than 350 pubs, inns and hotels in the South East.

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Survival expert earns management qualification through Navy course

A ROYAL Navy aviation survival equipment expert from Birchington has passed a top management qualification.

Chief Petty Officer Si Lanzon, 41, a veteran of the helicopter search and rescue unit at HMS Gannet in Scotland, has been studying for a Level 7 certificate in executive management from the Institute of Leadership and Management.

The former St Anselm's School, Canterbury, student currently lives with his wife and two children in Gosport, Hampshire, but says he still finds the time to return to Kent whenever possible.

"The ILP Level 7 was particularly intense and the basis of the course was a consolidation of all the training I have done in the Navy, in leadership and management," he said.

"The course itself, although intense, allowed me to look at not only my present position in the Navy but all previous jobs I had done with regards to the development of a manager.

"It was amazing to see how much of my experience could be applied within the course. I'm pleased and proud that I've managed to complete it and gain this qualification."

CPO Lanzon currently works on the flight survival equipment desk at the Royal Navy's command headquarters in Portsmouth.

He is due to leave the service next year and hopes to land a job in the offshore industry.

Neets back in class thanks to taster day

YOUNG people not in employment, education or training (Neets) were tempted back into the classroom for a taster day at Canterbury College's Sheppey campus.

The visitors were given the opportunity to attend short sessions in hairdressing, woodwork, brickwork, business and IT, with all those in attendance signing up to a course by the end of the day.

The college worked with the careers advice service Connexions to contact all of Swale's registered Neets – a term devised by the Government for jobless 16-24-year-olds – to let them know about the opportunity.

Director of student support services Lut Stewart said: "Canterbury College has a clear focus of getting young people back into education and training.

"The college also works very closely with education and career advice service Connexions in attempting to engage young people. We offer regular drop-in sessions, provide individual appointments and hold special events throughout the year.

"It has been proven by the British Birth Cohort Study that 16-to-18-year-olds out of education, employment or training are more likely to suffer depression, social deprivation and poor physical health by the age of 21."

Students from the Canterbury College Support Crew were on hand to answer the Neets' questions about college life, and those who attended said they were impressed by the range of courses on offer. Luke Shoebridge, 16, who took part in the 'Pathway to the Trades' taster session, said: "It helped me decide to stay in education.

"I wasn't going to come in but I did, and now I'm going to do the course."

Luke Armstrong, 16, who attended the same session, added: "I was doing something similar in school and coming here made me want to do it again."

The taster day was part-funded by the European Social Fund's Have a Go campaign, which aims to provide one million opportunities for people across the UK.

WILLING: Two youngsters at the taster day

Financial incentive for youngsters as student rewarded for hard work

A MIDKENT College student scooped a £600 prize for the best overall performance in the Construction and the Built Environment (CBE) Advanced Diploma Level 3.

Alex Tindall received the cash at an awards ceremony hosted by the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB), which hopes the financial incentive will encourage other young people to take up a trade.

Janette Welton-Pai, sector strategies manager for careers at CITB-ConstructionSkills, said: "It is very encouraging to see winners like Alex do so well in this diploma.

"We have worked closely with employers, local authorities, schools and colleges in order to develop this qualification. Students gain both practical and academic knowledge, helping to ensure the industry has the high calibre of new recruits it needs."

The CBE Diploma combines classroom learning with practical experience and aims to give students an insight into the world of work.

Students are invited to visit live sites and get involved in the planning and building of projects. This offers them the opportunity of mentoring by professionals working in their chosen field.

CIOB examinations manager Sue Dennison said: "We were very impressed with the extremely high standard of the short-listed candidates."

Training Solutions

SHORT COURSES NOVEMBER 2011

Course Title	Start Date	Duration	Price
Dementia Awareness	3 November	1 day	£55
Keeping up with the children – Maths	3 November	4 days	£60
Grandparent First Aid	3 November	½ day	£35
ILM Award in First Line Management	4 November	5 days	£795
First Aid at Work	7 November	3 days	£195
Time Management	8 November	½ day	£50
Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults	10 November	1 day	£55
BIIAB Award for Personal Licence Holders	14 November	1 day	£110
Giving Briefings and Presentations	15 November	½ day	£50
Emergency First Aid at Work	15 November	1 day	£80
Introduction to Business Improvement Techniques	16 November	½ day	£50
Safeguarding Children	17 November	1 day	£55
Welcome Host	21 November	1 day	£90
Dyspraxia Awareness	21 November	½ day	£40
Organising and Delegating	22 November	½ day	£50
Thinking Skills	23 November	½ day	£50
Assertiveness Training	23 November	½ day	£40
Office Health and Safety	23 November	½ day	£40
Automated External Defibrillator	24 November	½ day	£55
Becoming an Effective Leader	29 November	½ day	£50
Paediatric First Aid	30 November	2 days	£105

For further information please contact:
The Training Solutions Team
Tel: 01843 821580
training.solutions@thanet.ac.uk
www.thanet.ac.uk

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on Wednesday 19h October 2011 between 6.30 pm and 9.00 pm to have a tour of the School, talk to students and visit departments

The Head Teacher, Mrs Bolton, will be speaking at 6.30 pm and 7.30 pm.

Tours of the School from 6.30 pm.

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Thursday 20th and Friday 21st October
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Folkestone

Contracts Officer

£20,967 to £25,620 per annum

Shepway District Council is creating a new and exciting role within its Client Unit to help support the unit in delivering robust contract management and ensuring that value for money, quality, and risk are effectively managed to get the best outcomes for our residents.

The successful applicant will be working with the Corporate Contracts Manager in the newly created Client Unit. The post will involve providing administrative support to the Client Unit, monitoring and reporting on the performance of the council's contracts and other partnership agreements.

The responsibilities of the Client Unit will increase over time and this is an ideal time for an individual looking for a new challenge to join the council.

Candidates may have public sector experience but the experience and value they can bring in modern, flexible and effective contract management will be of more interest.

For an informal discussion about this post please contact Andrew Rush, on 01303 853271.

For more information and to apply please visit www.shepway.gov.uk/jobs

Closing date for completed applications is **Monday 7 November 2011.**

Interview dates: **Friday 18 November 2011**

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- NVQ4 in care and Registered Home Managers Award or equivalent
- At least four years experience of working within the field of services for people with special needs
- A working knowledge of the Care Standards Act 2000
- A willingness to participate in a continuous development of the service

Successful candidates will also enjoy the following benefits:

- Comprehensive induction training
- 25 days of annual leave in addition to paid public holidays
- Free meals whilst on duty
- Free Confidential Counselling Support Line

For an informal chat contact Christine Edwards-Daem on 01634 405168. An application pack can be downloaded from www.kentautistic.com

We are an equal opportunities employer and welcome applications from a wide section of the community. All applicants who are offered employment will be subject to a criminal record check from the Criminal Records Bureau. Closing date: 21st October 2011. Interviews will be held on 2nd November 2011.

No Agencies.

KCA (UK) is an expanding and vibrant organisation providing a wide range of high quality, flexible and innovative specialist services.

We require the following positions in our Psychological Therapy Providers IAPT services based either in **Medway, Canterbury, Ashford, Thanet or Swale.**

Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner (Step 2)

Full or part-time • Ref: 814

£21,176 – £27,625 (Agenda for Change Band 5, pro rata for part-time)

You will be an enthusiastic team player, with advanced communication skills, and will be highly motivated. Your training will have equipped you to work with people who have suffered with a mental health problem, as well as Low Intensity CBT based interventions.

You will have a qualification from a PWP training course or be an experienced and qualified graduate mental health worker with relevant primary care experience and competency to meet the requirements of the PWP BABCP/BPS accreditation.

Senior Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner

Full or part-time • Ref: 815

£21,176 – £27,625 (Agenda for Change Band 5 with possible progression to Band 6 for suitably qualified candidates, pro rata for part-time)

For further information about these posts, please contact Benjamin Taiwo, Service Manager on 01634 406087.

High Intensity Therapist

Full or part-time • Ref: 816

Senior High Intensity Therapist

Full or part-time • Ref: 817

£30,460 – £40,157 (Agenda for Change Band 7, qualified)
£25,528 – £34,189 (Agenda for Change Band 6, training)
Plus an Essential Car User Allowance of up to £1,239
All figures pro rata for part-time

You will be providing interventions for a range of common mental health problems. You must be experienced in delivering CBT on a 1:1 or group basis, in line with the Skills for Health Psychological Competencies Maps.

BABCP accreditation or working towards this is essential. The full range of skills and competencies as laid out in the competence framework for CBT (Roth and Pilling 2007) is essential. Experience of other NICE recommended interventions such as EMDR, IPT, (Behavioural) Couples Therapy for depression etc. would be advantageous.

We also require a Senior High Intensity Therapist to undertake the above duties, alongside supervision of High Intensity Therapists in Eastern and Coastal Kent. Supervision training will be provided. This role will be based in one of our teams in Faversham, Ashford or Thanet but may require travel across Eastern and Coastal Kent.

For further information on these roles, please contact Pavlo Kanellakis, IAPT Clinical Lead by emailing pkanellakis@kca.org.uk or Lynda Burr, Service Manager by emailing lburr@kca.org.uk

Supervisor • Ref: 819

£30,460 pro rata (Agenda for Change Band 7) dependent on experience and qualifications
10 – 15 hours per week (Tuesday and Wednesday)
Fixed term for one year

You will provide supervisory services within primary care and community settings across Eastern and Coastal Kent.

As a qualified supervisor you will have experience of supervising and delivering brief interventions for common mental health problems.

You will provide expert supervision both individually and in groups, and need to be accredited with a recognised governing body. Liaison with the Clinical Lead is required to ensure compliance with KCA policies and procedures. We will provide line management and training opportunities.

For an application form, please visit our website **www.kca.org.uk** Alternatively, you can email **recruitment@kca.org.uk** or telephone **01795 590795** and select option three. Please quote the appropriate reference in your application.

Closing date for all posts: Midday on Friday 28 October 2011. Interview date for Supervisor post: 1 November 2011.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all. Charity No: 292824

www.kca.org.uk

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We also have a range of volunteer roles available across all PTP services. Volunteers support our work as part of their social activities and many take up paid positions within our organisation. We also welcome student placements of substantial duration. For further information about placements or volunteering please contact Jo Ross Gower, IAPT Clinical Lead Medway & Havering on jo.ross-gower@kca.org.uk or Pavlo Kanellakis, IAPT Clinical Lead Kent on pkanellakis@kca.org.uk

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Interviews - w/c 31st October 2011
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Management Accountant

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ARCHANT KOS MEDIA

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Lecturer in Plumbing — *Ref: P0396*

Salary: £24,146 - £30,718 (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Maidstone/Medway

We are looking for an enthusiastic, highly motivated and well-organised lecturer to join our Plumbing department in the Faculty of Construction and Engineering. The successful candidate will be required to teach and assess on Plumbing/Building Services up to Level 2. Candidates will need to be qualified to L3 in Plumbing with significant practical experience within the industry. The post holder will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in English — *Ref: P0320*

Salary: £24,146 - £30,718 pro rata (dependent on qualifications and experience)
18.5 hours per week Chatham Maritime/Medway

We are seeking to appoint an outstanding candidate to deliver English classes on our Access to HE programmes. The successful candidate will have experience of teaching adult learners who are returning to education and experience of teaching at GCSE level would be advantageous. The post holder will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Hourly paid Lecturer in Motor Vehicle — *Ref: SE720*

Hourly rate: £22.45 - £27.22 per hour (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Maidstone

We are looking to appoint an enthusiastic candidate to teach and assess on a range of Motor Vehicle courses. The successful candidate will possess a minimum level 3 qualification and have proven experience in the Motor Vehicle industry. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and have or be willing to work towards a teaching qualification.

Hourly Paid Lecturer in Music — *Ref: SE551*

Hourly Rate: £22.45 - £27.22 per hour (Dependent on Qualifications and Experience)
Medway

The successful candidate will have a creative attitude coupled with excellent communication skills and will contribute to the delivery of Music programmes up to Level 3. A Degree or HND in a Music subject and professional experience with current knowledge of the music industry is essential, with the ability to conduct and guide rehearsals. The post holder will teach music theory and read music and hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Hourly Paid Wardrobe tutor and Costume Designer — *Ref:SE390*

Hourly Rate: £22.45 - £27.22 per hour (Dependent on Qualifications and Experience)
Medway

We are looking to recruit a passionate individual to contribute to the Productions throughout the College. The successful candidate will have proven industry experience as well as knowledge of costume design for theatre, stage costume making and stage wardrobe management. The post holder will hold a Degree level or equivalent qualification within a relevant subject area and hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Recruitment Assistant — *Ref: JS001*

Salary: £15,891 - £19,464 per annum/pro rata (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Full time role available at Medway & Part time role available at Maidstone

The College is looking to recruit exceptional individuals to assist and support in the operation of the Job Shop services, developing strong links with local employers to establish employment opportunities for students. The successful candidate will provide generalist advice to teaching and support staff in line with the College and departmental procedures and assist in the day to day running of the Job Shop, a front line customer service role. Experience within a sales or marketing role is desirable.

Departmental Administrator — *Ref: P0496*

Salary: £15,503 - £18,066 pro rata (dependent on qualifications and experience)
22.2 hours per week/41 weeks per year

We are looking to recruit an Administrator/Secretary with excellent administration and organisational skills, to join the Construction and Engineering Faculty, assisting the Head of Faculty with the day to day smooth running of the department. The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate knowledge of office procedures and ability to use MS office packages.

Chemistry Technician — *Ref: P0070*

18.5 hours per week
Salary: £17,050 - £21,339 pro rata (dependent on qualifications and experience)

We are looking to recruit a highly experienced individual to support the technical provision within the Science Department from GCSE level to HND in Applied Chemistry. The successful candidate will be supporting staff and students throughout the Department and will hold a qualification in Chemistry at degree level or equivalent. Previous applicants need not apply.

Apprentices - various subject areas

Training allowance: £6,314 per annum (plus reward bonus upon successful completion of the NVQ Qualification) Medway and Maidstone

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• Business Administration • Motor Vehicle • Customer Service • Painting and Decorating

Closing date: 12 noon Friday 21 October 2011

MidKent College and RBLI Employment Solutions are working in partnership to support disabled applicants. For assistance please contact RBLI on 0800783114 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk

For an application pack and further details visit www.midkent.ac.uk or e mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively you may contact Human Resources on 01634 383102.

The College is committed to safeguarding children and young people therefore any offer of employment will be subject to a CRB check.

MidKent College

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Plus SEN Allowance of £1,169 pa

If you are, or have recently been, working with physically disabled students this post may be for you. The post holder is required to support our PD students with their learning and welfare needs in order to maximise their levels of achievement and independence. You will be required to undertake moving and handling training. Experience is essential.

Further details and application forms may be obtained from our HR Manager by email at k.mcgowan@thamesview.kent.sch.uk or by telephoning 01474 566552 ext 8081120.

Closing Date: 17th October 2011
Interviews: 21st October 2011

CVs without an application form will not be accepted.
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Once applications have been reviewed interviews will be held in Lamberhurst on 19 and 20 October.

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Key skills and qualifications
The candidate must have CQSW or DipSW and two years post qualifying experience and be registered with GSCC. The candidate will have experience of supervising social work staff and working with children in care.
The candidate will be able to ensure the maintenance of accurate records of placements, including case recording, placement agreements, assessment reports, carer reviews, carer supervision and child progress reports. The candidate will also be expected to undertake annual reviews of Foster Carers.
Good communication and assessment skills and experience are essential along with report writing skills.
Full Driving Licence and have good IT skills.

Salary Scale:	£28K to £45K depending on experience or qualifications Full time 37.5 hours per week
Benefits:	Car allowance, enhancement for Out of Hours
Work base:	Head Office Lydd, Romney Marsh, Kent
Please contact	**David Burton at d.burton@credocare.co.uk**
or	**Anjie Newland a.newland@credocare.co.uk**

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PREMISES/ GOODS LICENCES

Licensing Act 2003

Essence Bar Ltd, 11 Butchery Lane Canterbury

Notice is hereby given that **Essence Bar Ltd, 11 Butchery Lane Canterbury** has applied to Canterbury City Council for the variation of the premises licence held for the the above premises. The effect of the variation will be:

1. To remove all conditions relating to the frequency and numbers of performers for live and recorded music.
2. To remove the condition restricting off-sales of alcohol after 23:00 hours
3. To add all licensable activities except indoor sports, boxing and wrestling
4. To extend the terminal hours for all licensable activities to 02:00 hours each day
5. To extend the time for the commencement of the sale of alcohol by 2 hours at the beginning of each day
6. To extend the hours open to the public to 02:30 hours each day

A register of licensing applications can be inspected at http://www.canterbury.gov.uk/licensing or at Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury, CT1 1YW (01227 478612) by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Any person wishing to submit representations to our application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by 00:01 hours Tuesday 3rd November 2011

I **Krzysztof Kapron** are applying for a new Premises Licence at the TWIST Bistro, 6 Railway Street, Chatham, ME4 4JL

My application is made to Medway Council Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, ME4 4TR

I am applying for the following licensable activities: **Sale of Alcohol (10am-10pm)**

Should you wish to make representations to the Council it must be in writing and/or you can view my application by contacting the Council on **01634 337 107** or **337 108** by 22.10.2011

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £5,000.

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE UNDER THE GAMBLING ACT 2005

Notice is hereby given that: Ladbrokes Betting & Gaming Ltd of the following address: Imperial House, Imperial Drive, Rayners Lane, Harrow, HA2 7JW are applying for a Betting (Other) premises licence under section 159 of the Gambling Act 2005. The application relates to the following premises: Ladbrokes, 84 Sandgate Road, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2AA. The application has been made to: Shepway District Council. Information about the application is available from the licensing authority, including the arrangements for viewing the details of the application. Any of the following persons may make representations in writing to the licensing authority about the application: A person who lives sufficiently close to the premises to be likely to be affected by the authorised activities. A person who has business interests that might be affected by the authorised activities. A person who represents someone in any of the above two categories. Any representations must be made by the following date: 02/11/2011

It is an offence under section 342 of the Gambling Act 2005 if a person, without reasonable excuse, gives to a licensing authority for a purpose connected with that Act information which is false or misleading.

To advertise in this section
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PLANNING

Planning applications

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//11/01382/FUL: Langara Cottage, 38 Bank Street, Herne Bay, CT6 5AN Replacement front door. **Applicant: Mrs Evans** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01416/FUL: 65 Whitstable Road, Canterbury, CT2 8DG Re-cladding of dwelling with timber and render. **Applicant: Mr P Kelly** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01430/FUL: 26 Clifton Road, Whitstable, CT5 1DQ Replacement windows and door to front of dwelling. **Applicant: Mrs Somerset** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01432/ADV: Cafe Du Soleil, 2 - 4 Pound Lane, Canterbury Replacement illuminated wall mounted sign to river frontage. New illuminated wall mounted sign to river frontage and non-illuminated hanging and directional signs to elevation fronting Pound Lane. **Applicant: Cafe Du Soleil** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01536/FUL: The Falstaff Hotel, St Dunstans Street, Canterbury, CT2 8AF Internal and external alterations to hotel restaurant and construction of brick wall to separate carpark from courtyard garden. **Applicant: Mr Clarke** Reason: Setting listed building in conservation area.
CA//11/01594/FUL: Blean House, Whitstable Road, Blean, CT2 9EA Reconstruction of main roof and enlargement of second floor front box room. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Lygo** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01595/LB: Blean House, Whitstable Road, Blean, CT2 9EA Reconstruction of main roof and enlargement of second floor front box room. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Lygo** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//11/01604/FUL: 128 Regent Street, Whitstable, CT5 1JW Replacement windows. **Applicant: Mrs Truckle** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01636/CAC: Cornerstone, Maypole Lane, Hoath, CT3 4LP Demolition of dwelling in connection with redevelopment of site. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs D Chandler** Reason: Demolition of unlisted building in conservation area.
CA//11/01639/FUL: 1 The Deck House, 120 Island Wall, Whitstable, CT5 1EE Single-storey extension to side of dwelling. **Applicant: Miss Pandit** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01651/FUL: Land adjoining 20 Plantation Road, Chestfield, CT5 3LG Application for a new planning permission to replace planning permission CA/08/01276/CHE for removal of existing garage and erection of detached dwelling in order to extend the time limit for implementation. **Applicant: Robert Tavener** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01655/FUL: 7 De L Angle Row, Station Road, Chartham, CT4 7JP Erection of conservatory to rear of dwelling. (Revised scheme). **Applicant: Ms Overton** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01665/FUL: Kenfield House, Kenfield Road, Petham, CT4 5RN Demolition of existing detached garage and erection of a two bay garage with log and garden store. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Henderson** Reason: Setting listed building in conservation area.
CA//11/01680/ELE: Takamaka, The Drove, Chestfield, CT5 3NX Replacement overhead electricity lines. **Applicant: UK Power Networks** Reason: Conservation area.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to **development.control@canterbury.gov.uk** to arrive on or before **Monday 7 November 2011**.

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 14 October 2011

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PLANNING

Public Notice

9 October 2011

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Local Government Act 1972 – Section 123(2A) (as inserted by the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980)

Proposed disposal of land adjacent to 92 Wincheap, Canterbury which is designated as public open space.

Canterbury City Council hereby gives notice of their intention to dispose of land adjacent to 92 Wincheap, Canterbury, which is designated as public open space.

The proposed land to be disposed of is 74.68 sq m and is an area which formed the former public conveniences.

A plan showing the above area may be inspected at the Council Offices, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW between the hours of 8.30am and 5pm Mondays to Fridays.

Anyone wishing to make objections to the proposed disposal of the land should make them in writing to the David Reed, Strategic Director, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW so as to arrive not later than **Monday 7 November 2011**.

Colin Carmichael
Chief Executive
Canterbury City Council
Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW

Public Notice

9 October 2011

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Local Government Act 1972 – Section 123(2A) (as inserted by the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980)

Proposed disposals of land at Whitstable Harbour, Whitstable which are designated as public open spaces.

Canterbury City Council hereby gives notice of their intention to dispose of land at Whitstable Harbour, Whitstable, which are designated as public open spaces, by the granting of two leases to Whitstable Oyster Fishery Company for use as decking areas to a restaurant on an adjoining site and for car parking.

The proposed lands to be leased are as follows:

Site A – 169.3 sq m being an area of the East Quay with access via a narrow section of the shingle beach.

Site B – 221.1 sq m and is a section of shingle beach immediately to the seaward side of the East Quay restaurant.

Site C – 222.6 sq m and is an area of the harbour which has been laid out as a car park but was formerly used as a Sea Scouts boat park.

A plan showing the above areas may be inspected at the Council Offices, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW between the hours of 8.30am and 5pm Mondays to Fridays.

Anyone wishing to make objections to the proposed disposals of land should make them in writing to David Reed, Strategic Director, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW so as to arrive not later than **Monday 7 November 2011**.

Colin Carmichael
Chief Executive
Canterbury City Council
Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW

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PLANNING

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/11/1236/S - CLAYGATE LAKES, CLAYGATE, MARDEN, MARDEN, KENT, TN12 9PL - Erection of a building to accommodate an office, tackle shop and toilets; erection of a building to act as a drying room; siting of two storage containers; formation of a base for a mobile catering unit; and landscaping. **Reason: 6**

MA/11/1240/S - HEADCORN HALL, BIDDENDEN ROAD, HEADCORN, ASHFORD, KENT, TN27 9JD - Demolition of existing property known as Headcorn Hall and erection of 10 five bedroom detached houses together with garaging, parking and amenity. New access to be formed onto Shenley Road and existing access on to Biddenden Road to be closed. **Reason: 6**

MA/11/1466/ - DHL EXEL SUPPLY CHAIN LTD, 20/20 BUSINESS PARK, LAVERSTOKE ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 0LE - Erection of new 3000sqm storage building. **Reason: 6**

MA/11/1493/S - KNOWLE HILL HOUSE, KNOWLE HILL, ULCOMBE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1ES - Change of use of agricultural land to the siting of 16 solar panels. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/1532/S - BROOK HOUSE, OLD LOOSE HILL, LOOSE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0BL - Erection of detached garage. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/11/1547/N - LEEDS CASTLE, ASHFORD ROAD, HOLLINGBOURNE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1PL - Erection of single storey toilet block. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/1551/N - BEARSTED AND THURNHAM STATION, WARE STREET, BEARSTED, KENT, ME14 4PH - Listed Building consent for demolition of concrete footbridge. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/1560/N - PAVEMENT AT HSBC, HIGH STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1QW - Change of use for the stationing of an ice cream van. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/11/1565/S - LONDON HOUSE, 5 - 11, LONDON ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 8HR - Change of use and extension (through infilling of existing rear projection at ground floor level) from office (Class B1 use) to provide a 100 bedroom (Whitbread Premier Inn) hotel (Class C1 use) to include alterations to the existing elevations, alterations to existing vehicular access and car parking, provision of DDA compliant pedestrian access, reconfiguration of existing loading bay and provision of new landscaping. **Reason: 6, 9**

Reasons for advertisement key:

1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
6 - Application is Major Development.
9 - Application does not accord with the Local Plan.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **30th October 2011**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 16th October 2011

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

11/03001/FUL **The Grange Franks Hollow Road, Bidborough**
- Retention of 3 no. lighting columns in adjacent field (retrospective) (LB) (CA)

11/02918/HOUSE **Mill Cottage Windmill Hill, Brenchley**
- Alterations, verandah and subterranean extension (LB)

11/02919/LBC **Mill Cottage Windmill Hill, Brenchley**
- Listed Building Consent: Alterations, verandah and subterranean extension (LB)

11/02444/FULMJ **Land Adjacent & 15 - 16 Eridge Road, Broadwater**
- 56 flats and 10 houses with associated car parking (CA) (LB) (MAJOR)

11/02980/LBC **Hartridge Manor Oast Paley Lane, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Listed Building Consent - Installation of plasterboard ceiling above the line of roof collars to barn (LB)

11/03000/LBC **Hartridge Manor Oast Paley Lane, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Listed Building Consent - Provision of emergency escape "windows" to first floor front elevation of barn (in place of fixed 3-pane windows as approved on TW/09/3530/LBC); Black iron balustrading to be installed internally behind windows for safety reasons (LB)

11/02747/FUL **Royal Wells Inn 59 Mount Ephraim, Culverden**
- Conversion of staff accommodation into 6 No. en-suite guest bedrooms (CA) (LB)

11/02760/LBC **Royal Wells Inn 59 Mount Ephraim, Culverden**
- Listed Building Consent - Conversion of staff accommodation into 6 No. en-suite guest bedrooms (LB)

11/02965/FUL **Taywell Farm Shop Cranbrook Road, Goudhurst**
- Variation of Condition 7 of TW/05/03340/FUL - to 85% of sales of produce to be sourced from Kent and Sussex (LB)

11/00460/FULMJ **Land Rear Of The Old School House 3 Cumberland Walk And, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Redevelopment of buildings to the rear of the Grade I listed Old School House to create hotel bedrooms and ancillary accommodation as part of the Brew House Hotel including erection of canopy over part of Cumberland Walk and erection of bin enclosure adjacent to Brew House Hotel (LB) (MAJOR) (PROW) (CA)

11/02680/FUL **The Tunbridge Wells Bar & Grill 84 High Street, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Extraction unit (retrospective) (CA) (LB)

11/02950/HOUSE **East House Camden Park, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Extension of Time: New porch, rear single-storey extension and two-storey side extension (TW/08/03161/FUL refers) (CA)

11/02973/HOUSE **46 High Street Pembury, Pembury**
- First floor extension (CA)

11/02076/HOUSE **Old Tanyard Bodiam Road, Sandhurst**
- Install a pair of wooden gates set back 6m from the road (1.5m high x 2.7m wide) (LB)

11/02933/LBC **The Malt House Queen Street, Sandhurst**
- Listed Building Consent - Formation of en-suite bathroom to first floor (LB)

11/02849/FUL **White Lodge 2A Broomhill Park Road, Southborough And High Brooms**
- Erection of dwelling to include loft conversion (Amendment to TW/09/03742) (LB)

11/02821/HOUSE **4 Draper Mews Draper Street, Southborough North**
- External stainless steel chimney flue (CA)

11/02937/CAC **Land Rear Of 35 London Road, Southborough North**
- Conservation Area Consent: Demolition of redundant office building (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 15 October 2011

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF ASHFORD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
HIGHWAYS ACT 1980

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(PUBLIC FOOTPATHS AW35 (PART) & AW36 (PART) CHARING)
PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2011

The above Order, made under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980 will divert:-

The entire width of that length of Public Footpath numbered AW35 which commences on the unaffected length of Public Footpath AW35 at NGR TQ 9421 4919 (point A) and runs in a west north westerly through westerly direction for 98 metres to its connection with Hook Lane at NGR TQ 9411 4921 (point B).

The entire width of that length of Public Footpath numbered AW36 which commences on the unaffected length of Public Footpath AW36 at NGR TQ 9411 4913 (point F) 10 metres from its connection with Hook Lane and runs in an east north easterly through north easterly direction for 122 metres to its connection with Public Footpath AW35 at NGR TQ 9421 4919 (point A).

And will provide:-

A new length of Public Footpath numbered AW35 with a width of 2.5 metres between A-C-D and a width of 2.0 metres between D-E which commences on the unaffected length of Public Footpath AW35 at NGR TQ 9421 4919 (point A) and runs in a west north westerly direction for 86 metres to NGR TQ 9413 4922 (point C), west south westerly, thence southerly for 24 metres to NGR TQ 9412 4920 (point D) thence westerly for 10 metres to a new connection with Hook Lane at NGR TQ 9411 4920 (point E).

A new length of Public Footpath numbered AW36 with a width of 2.5 metres, which commences on the unaffected length of Public Footpath AW36 at NGR TQ 9411 4913 (point F) and runs in a north north easterly direction for 74 metres to its connection with the new length of Public Footpath AW35 at NGR TQ 9412 4920 (point D).

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order and the Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the offices of Ashford Borough Council, Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1AS or at the Countryside Access Service at Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX, during office hours. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

Any representation about or objection to the Order must be sent or delivered in writing to Laura Wilkins at the Kent County Council (address as below) no later than 14 November 2011. Please state the grounds on which it is made.

If no representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Kent County Council may confirm the Order as an unopposed Order. If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the Order.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
HIGHWAYS ACT 1980

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(PUBLIC FOOTPATH AW37 (PART) CHARING)
PUBLIC PATH EXTINGUISHMENT AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2011

The above Order, made under Section 118 of the Highways Act 1980 will extinguish:-

The entire width of that length of Public Footpath numbered AW37 which commences on the unaffected length of Public Footpath AW37 at NGR TQ 9413 4922 (point A) and runs in a generally south south easterly direction for approximately 79 metres to its connection with Public Footpath AW36 at NGR TQ 9417 4915 (point B)

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order and the Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the offices of Ashford Borough Council, Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1AS or at the Countryside Access Service at Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX, during office hours. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

Any representation about or objection to the Order must be sent or delivered in writing to Laura Wilkins at the Kent County Council (address as below) no later than 14 November 2011. Please state the grounds on which it is made.

If no representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Kent County Council may confirm the Order as an unopposed Order. If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the Order

PROW - IN THE CITY OF CANTERBURY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER
HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(PUBLIC FOOTPATH CB386 (PART) AT PETHAM)
PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2011

The above Order, made under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980 will divert the entire width of that length of public footpath numbered CB386, which commences at NGR TR 1027 5018 (point A on the Order plan) and runs in a generally south-easterly direction for approximately 135 metres to its connection with bridleway CB391 at NGR TR 1036 5007 (point B on the Order plan), to a new length of footpath CB386 with a width of 2.5 metres, which commences at the aforementioned point A and runs in a generally southerly direction for approximately 150 metres to its connection with bridleway CB391 (point C on the Order plan), approximately 83 metres south-west of the aforementioned point B.

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order and the Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the offices of Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1YW or at the Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX, during office hours. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

Any representations about or objections to the Order should be sent in writing to Mrs Maria McLauchlan at the Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX (Tel: 01622 696871) before 14th November 2011. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

If no representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, Kent County Council may confirm the Order as an unopposed Order. If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the Order.

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX **Dated: 16 October 2011**

The above notice(s) may be provided in other formats

For further information, please contact Kent Countryside Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council

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HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - Ashford Borough Council

HINXHILL ROAD, HINXHILL, ASHFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the installation of a new electricity supply cable, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hinxhill Road, Hinxhill, on or after 22 October 2011 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Goodcheap Lane and Plumpton.

The alternative route is via Hinxhill Road, The Street, A2070 Kennington Road, Willesborough Interchange, A20 Hythe Road, Bockham Lane and Plumpton.

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

ALBANY DRIVE, HERNE BAY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To enable sewer connections to be made for a new development, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Albany Drive, Herne Bay, between 22 October 2011 and 30 October 2011 inclusive, or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with Sea Street (on the station side).

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Sea Street and Minster Drive.

The alternative route is via Sea Street, Western Avenue and Minster Drive.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (CANTERBURY ROAD, HERNE) (50MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2011

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL IN EXERCISE OF THEIR POWERS UNDER SECTIONS 84 (1) AND (2) OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AND OF ALL OTHER ENABLING POWERS, AND AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE CHIEF OFFICER OF POLICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART III OF SCHEDULE 9 TO THE ACT, HEREBY MAKE THE FOLLOWING ORDER:-

1. No person shall drive any motor vehicle at a speed exceeding 50 miles per hour in Canterbury Road, Herne, from a point 10 metres South of the junction with Bragg's Lane to a point 270 metres North of the junction with Sweechgate.
2. The Interpretation Act 1978 shall apply for the interpretation of this Order as it applies for the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.
3. This Order may be cited as "The Kent County Council (Canterbury Road, Herne)(50 mph Speed Limit) Order 2011"

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent Highway Services, Javelin Way

Ashford, TN24 8AD, between 8.30am and 5.00pm, and at Canterbury District Council, Military Road, Canterbury, during normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager, Kent Highway Services, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to TRO@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 7th November 2011.

HIGH STREET, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow the use of a mobile crane to lift equipment onto the roof of Lloyds TSB, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on High Street, Canterbury, on or after Sunday 23 October 2011 between the hours of 6.00 pm and 10.00 pm.

If adverse weather prevents these works going ahead on 23 October, the works will be deferred until one of the following 2 Sundays, as advised on site.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with St Margaret's Street.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with St Margaret's Street and Guildhall Street

The alternative route is via Rose Lane, Watling Street, Upper Bridge Street, Broad Street, Military Road, Tourtel Road, Northgate, New Ruttington Lane, Union Place, Union Street The Borough, Palace Street, Orange Street and The Friars.

A2050 LONDON ROAD ROUNDABOUT, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on the A2050 London Road Roundabout, Canterbury, between 3 November and 9 November 2011 inclusive.

Works will be carried out between 7.00 pm and 2.00 am, with the road re-opened outside these hours.

London Road Roundabout will be closed in 2 phases between the junctions with Rheims Way and Harbledown By-pass, with the phasing advised on site.

When the northern section is closed, London Road will be closed at the junction with the roundabout.

The alternative route is via Rheims Way, St Dunstan's Street and London Road.

When the southern section of the roundabout is closed, Knight Avenue will be closed, with limited managed access, but long delays are likely.

Traffic on the section of the roundabout that remains open will be controlled by temporary traffic lights.

TELFORD STREET, HERNE BAY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of construction works in connection with a new development, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Telford Street, Herne Bay, on or after 18 October 2011 for up to 1 day.

A futher 1-day closure is planned for 8 November 2011.

The road will be closed between the junction with Richmond Street and the vicinity of Saxby Lodge.

The alternative route is via Richmond Street, Central Parade, Dolphin Street and Telford Street.

This Order remains in force for up to 18 months and can be re-implemented if required, for works of a similar nature.

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

EAST CLIFF, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on East Cliff, Dover, on or after 17 October 2011 for up to 8 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in phases from the junction with Townwall Street to the vicinity of number 58.

There is no alternative route.

There will be a suspension of the One-way Traffic Order in respect of East Cliff to allow access up to the point of closure.

RICHBOROUGH LEVEL CROSSING, RICHBOROUGH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to upgrade the lighting at the level crossing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Richborough Level Crossing, Richborough, on or after Saturday 5 November 2011 between 8.00 am and 6.00 pm.

Richborough Road will be closed in the vicinity of the level crossing.

The alternative route is via A256 Sandwich By-pass, A257 Sandwich Road, Cooper Street Drove and Richborough Road.

HIGHWAYS - District of Gravesham

OAKENDEN LANE, MEOPHAM - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Oakenden Lane, Meopham between Brimstone Hill and Dean Street.

The Order will become effective on 17th October 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 21 October 2011 and last 1 day. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via Dean Road, Harvel Street, David Street, Whitehill Road and Brimstone Hill.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate BT works to allow safe access for poling works.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (HAMPSTEAD LANE & TESTON LANE, LEVEL CROSSINGS, YALDING & TESTON) PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Hampstead Lane and Teston Lane between 08.00hrs and 20.00hrs at the level crossing on or after Sunday 6th November 2011 for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for Hampstead Lane is via Lees Road, Gravelly Ways, Beltring Road, A228 Boyle Way, B2015 Maidstone Road, B2162 Hampstead Lane and for Teston Lane via A26 Tonbridge Road, Farleigh Lane, Station Road, B2010 Lower Road, Teston Lane.

Network Rail apologise for any inconvenience caused, which is necessary for changing the central beam at the crossings. Should you require any further information for these works, please contact Emma Osborne on 07791 179882.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PHEASANT LANE, MAIDSTONE) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) ORDER 2011

The Kent County Council as traffic authority have made the experimental Order for Pheasant Lane permanent, which introduces prohibition of driving of any motor vehicle on Pheasant Lane, Maidstone from the junction with A274 Sutton Road, Maidstone to the junction with Boughton Lane, Maidstone access will be maintained but a bollard will be placed at approximately 579 metres from the junction with A274 Sutton Road, Maidstone.

A copy of the Order, which comes into operation on 17th October 2011, together with an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of roads concerned may be inspected during normal office hours Monday to Friday at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX.

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Orders or of any provision contained in them on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or any instrument made thereunder, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Orders.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (SPOT LANE, BEARSTED) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on the routes described in the Schedule.

The alternative routes as described will be noted in the schedule. Access will be maintained up to the points of closure. The Order will become effective on Monday 31st October 2011 between 09:30hrs and 15:00hrs or until such works are complete and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

Schedule

Road Name:	Spot Lane, Bearsted
Extent:	Royston Road to Greystones Road
Dates:	Start: 31st October 2011 End: 2nd November 2011
Diversion:	Spot Lane, Mallards Way, Derringwood Drive, Willington Street, Lord Romney's Hill, A20 Ashford Road

Road Name:	Spot Lane, Bearsted
Extent:	A20 Ashford Road to Shirley Way
Dates:	Start: 6th November 2011 End: 6th November 2011
Diversion:	A20 Ashford Road, Cavendish Way, Shirley Road

The purpose of the Order is for Kent County Council Highways to undertake footway resurfacing works.

For further information or comment please call Robert Seggie on 08458 247 800.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

ST JULIANS ROAD, SEAL - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on St Julians Road, Seal from Park Lane for approx 55metres West.

The Order will become effective on 17th October 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 4 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via Fawke Wood Road, Carters Hill.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate installation of a new water pipe.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS IN THE DISTRICT OF SEVENOAKS) (PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTIONS OF WAITING AND LOADING & UNLOADING AND ON STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT NO 21) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 36, 45, 46, 47, 49, 53, 124 and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order will be to introduce no waiting at any time (double yellow lines) on the following roads or lengths of road in the towns and parishes within the District of Sevenoaks:-

Homedean Road - Chevening	Alban Crescent - Farningham
Berwick Way - Sevenoaks	Crampton's Road - Sevenoaks
Oak Lane - Sevenoaks	Main Road (B258) - Hextable
Emersons Avenue - Hextable	Victoria Hill Road - Hextable
Northview - Swanley	Sycamore Drive - Swanley
Tower Croft - Eynsford	High Street (A225) - Eynsford
Priory Lane - Eynsford	

The effect of the Order will also be to introduce day time restriction (single yellow lines) 8.30am - 9.30am, 3.00pm - 4.00pm Monday to Friday on the north eastern, south eastern side and around the turning head of Tower Croft, Eynsford and on the south east side of High Street, Eynsford from a point 10m north east of the junction with Tower Croft for a distance of 22m in a north easterly direction.

A copy of the Order, which comes into operation on 17th October 2011, together with an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of roads concerned may be inspected during normal office hours Monday to Friday at Sevenoaks Council Offices, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks and Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX.

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Orders or of any provision contained in them on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or any instrument made thereunder, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Orders.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Swale

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (B2005 SITTINGBOURNE RELIEF ROAD, SITTINGBOURNE) (40 MPH SPEED LIMITS) ORDER 2011 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

(B2005 SITTINGBOURNE RELIEF ROAD, SITTINGBOURNE) (CONVERSION OF FOOTWAY TO SHARED CYCLE TRACK) HIGHWAYS ACT 1980

Due to an administrative error it has been necessary to

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

HIGHWAYS

re-advertise the notice for the above scheme.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers proposes to make an Order under Sections 81 to 84 of and part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which will introduce a 40mph speed limit on the un-named road, which is the new section of the B2005Sittingbourne Northern Relief Road (herein after referred to as SNRR) and;

UNDER Sections 65 and 66 (1) of the Highways Act 1980 and all other enabling powers, intends to install an Un-Segregated Shared Pedestrian / Cycle Track on the SNNR.

As part of Kent County Council's regeneration programme, Phase 3 of the Sittingbourne Northern Relief Road (SNRR) is due to be open by the end of November 2011.

The SNRR is a 1.4 km length of single carriageway road in the north east of Sittingbourne, with bridges over Milton Creek and the Sittingbourne and Kemsley Light Railway. The new length will form a link between the two existing sections of the relief road which are between Grovehurst interchange on the A249 and Ridham Avenue, and between Castle Road and the East Hall Farm residential development.

Jacobs Engineering UK Ltd has been commissioned to work in partnership with the Kent County Council to progress the legal procedures necessary to implement the proposed measures.

Copies of the plan showing the extent of the proposals can be inspected during normal working hours at The Kent County Council Offices, Sessions House, County Road, Maidstone Kent, ME14 1XQ and at Swale Borough Council Offices, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3HT.

Anyone wishing to support these proposals, or object to them, should write to Diane Bourne, Jacobs Engineering UK Ltd, Miller House, Lower Stone Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6GB, quoting the name of the Order and reference No "B1405600" and stating their reasons, by no later than Monday 7th November 2011. Responses received after this date will not be included.

Schedule 1

(Conversion of Footway to Un-Segregated Shared Pedestrian / Cycle Track)

B2005 Sittingbourne Northern Relief Road, Sittingbourne on the south western side from a point 75.0 metres north west of the mid point of its realigned roundabout junction with Ridham Avenue south eastwards, to its north western junction with "Castle Road roundabout".

Castle Road, Sittingbourne on the south western side from its roundabout junction with B2005 Sittingbourne Northern Relief Road south westwards, for a distance of 35.0 metres.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (B2007 THOMSETT WAY), QUEENBOROUGH) (40 MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2011

(CULLET DRIVE & RUSHENDEN ROAD, QUEENBOROUGH) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS) ORDER 2011 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

Due to a change in the scheme design it is necessary to re-advertise the notice for the above scheme and consequently carry out a consultation process for the new proposals.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers proposes to make an Order under Sections 81, 82, 83 and 84 of and part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which will introduce a 40mph speed limit on a section of the Rushenden Relief Road called Thomsett Way (B2007) and;

Under Sections 1, 2 and 124 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended by Schedule 8 of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 and part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004, the effect of which will amend the existing "At Any Time" Waiting Restrictions in Cullet Drive and Rushenden Road at the locations where they meet Thomsett Way (B2007).

The Kent County Council is working in partnership with the South East England Development Agency, known as SEEDA to promote further development and regeneration at Rushenden and Queenborough on the Isle of Sheppey.

Thomsett Way is currently known as the Rushenden Relief Road and will become the B2007 part of which will be subject to a 40mph speed limit from its north eastern roundabout junction with the A249 Breille Way south westwards, to a point 40 metres east of the mid point of its roundabout junction with Cullet Drive. The remaining length will automatically be a 30 mph speed limit by virtue of street lighting. The current B2007, which is called Main Road, will be de-classified.

There is also a need to alter small lengths of the existing "At Any Time" Waiting Restrictions in Cullet Drive and Rushenden Road at the locations where they meet Thomsett Way.

The proposals involve substantial mixed commercial and housing development, to provide new employment and homes as well as complement the existing development.

Access to the existing development through Queenborough is poor and a new link road called Thomsett Way, Queenborough, between the A249 and the existing and new development areas is proposed. SEEDA has secured Homes and Community Agency and other government and private sector funding.

The link road will be a new carriageway, part dual carriageway and part single carriageway. It will run between the new roundabout at Neats Court, constructed as part of the A249 Swale Crossing scheme, and pass over the railway connecting to a new junction on Rushenden Road. An intermediate roundabout will serve Cullet Drive.

Copies of the plan showing the extent of the proposals can be inspected during normal working hours at The Kent County Council Offices, Sessions House, County Road, Maidstone Kent, ME14 1XQ and at Swale Borough Council Offices, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne ME10 3HT.

Anyone wishing to support these proposals, or object to them, should write to Diane Bourne, Jacobs Engineering UK Ltd, Miller House, Lower Stone Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6GB, quoting the name of the Order and reference No "B1272600" and stating their reasons, by no later than Monday 7th November 2011. Responses received after this date will not be included.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

BELLEVUE ROAD, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new electricity supply, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bellevue Road, Ramsgate, on or after 23 October 2011 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Augusta Road and Artillary Road.

The alternative route is via B2054 Victoria Road, Victoria Parade and Plains of Waterloo.

UPPER DUMPTON PARK ROAD, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to install a new electricity supply, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Upper Dumpton Park Road, Ramsgate, on or after 18 October 2011 for up to 4 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of number 31.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Claremont Place and Ann's Road.

The alternative route is via A255 Boundary Road, Denmark Road and St Luke's Avenue.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (SANDY LANE, ADDINGTON) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Sandy Lane, outside plot adjacent to "Downland" on or after Saturday 22nd October 2011 when required for a period of up to 9 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Ford Lane, A20 London Road, St Vincents Lane.

Southern Gas Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to install a new gas supply. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Amy Colvin on 01689 881315.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (TUDELEY LANE, TONBRIDGE) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Tudeley Lane at The Priory Mill Bridge on or after Monday 17th October 2011 for a period of up to 6 months or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Tudeley Lane, A2014 Pembury Road, A26 Woodgate Way, Five Oak Green Road.

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to demolish and rebuild the Priory Mill Bridge for highway safety. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Geoff Blatchford on 01622 666000.

HIGHWAYS - In the Borough of Tunbridge Wells

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (A268 RYE ROAD, SANDHURST) (30MPH SPEED RESTRICTION) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic travelling at any speed greater than 30mph on A268 Rye Road from 300m southeast from Crouch Lane to junction with Hastings Road on or after Monday 17th October 2011 for a period of up to 23 weeks (excluding 22nd December 2011 to 3rd January 2012) or until such works are completed.

South East Water apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for mains installation. Should you require any further information for these works, the contact is Brendan MacLellan on 01634 873902.

Katherine Kerswell
Group Managing Director
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 16th October 2011

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Including family announcements in partnership with the Kent registration service

To register Births, Marriages and Deaths contact the Kent registration service on 0845 824 7400

For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday 01303 817150

BIRTHS

BIRCH
Westley and Sarah are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Olivia Rose Birch, on 26th September 2011 at 1.04pm weighing 6Ib 13oz.

HYDE
Introducing Chloe Lucy Hyde born 26th September 2011, weighing 8lbs 2ozs. Our little bundle of joy welcome to the world. Lots of love Mummy and Daddy xxx

PRIEST
Chris and Ashley are proud to announce the birth of their beautiful baby daughter Freya Jayne Priest born on 12th September 2011 at Darent Valley Hospital weighing 6lb 7oz

SKINNER
Alfred Peter Skinner born on 30th September 2011, weighing 7lbs 7oz. Son to Carl and Louise in Snodland.

TURNER
Alison and David of Deal are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful twin girls, Ruby Violet Turner and Jasmine Audrey Turner, born at 10.00am on the 24th September 2011 at QEQM Hospital. Mummy and Daddys special little angels.

DEATHS

DAISY
Len Daisy passed away peacefully on the 27th September 2011. Re-united with his beloved wife Joan and son Jeff. Funeral to be arranged enquiries to H R Palmer on 01843 592720, all welcome.

VICKERS
Dora Irene of Ashley, Kent passed away peacefully on the 25th September 2011 aged 86years. Theres an open gate at the end of the road through which each must go alone, and there, in a light we cannot see, you will remain close to me.

WOLF
To my beloved husband Daniel Wolf (Wolfie) Died suddenly on 20th September 2011 aged 48 years. A true gentleman who served his community well, who was deeply loved and missed by all.Close family floral tributes only please, donations to Kent Air Ambulance via Pickard and Beale.Memorial service at All Saints Church Staplehurst on Tuesday 11th October at 12.00pm to be followed by cremation at Vinters Park at 2.00pm.

One last chance to enjoy leafy beauty before winter sets in

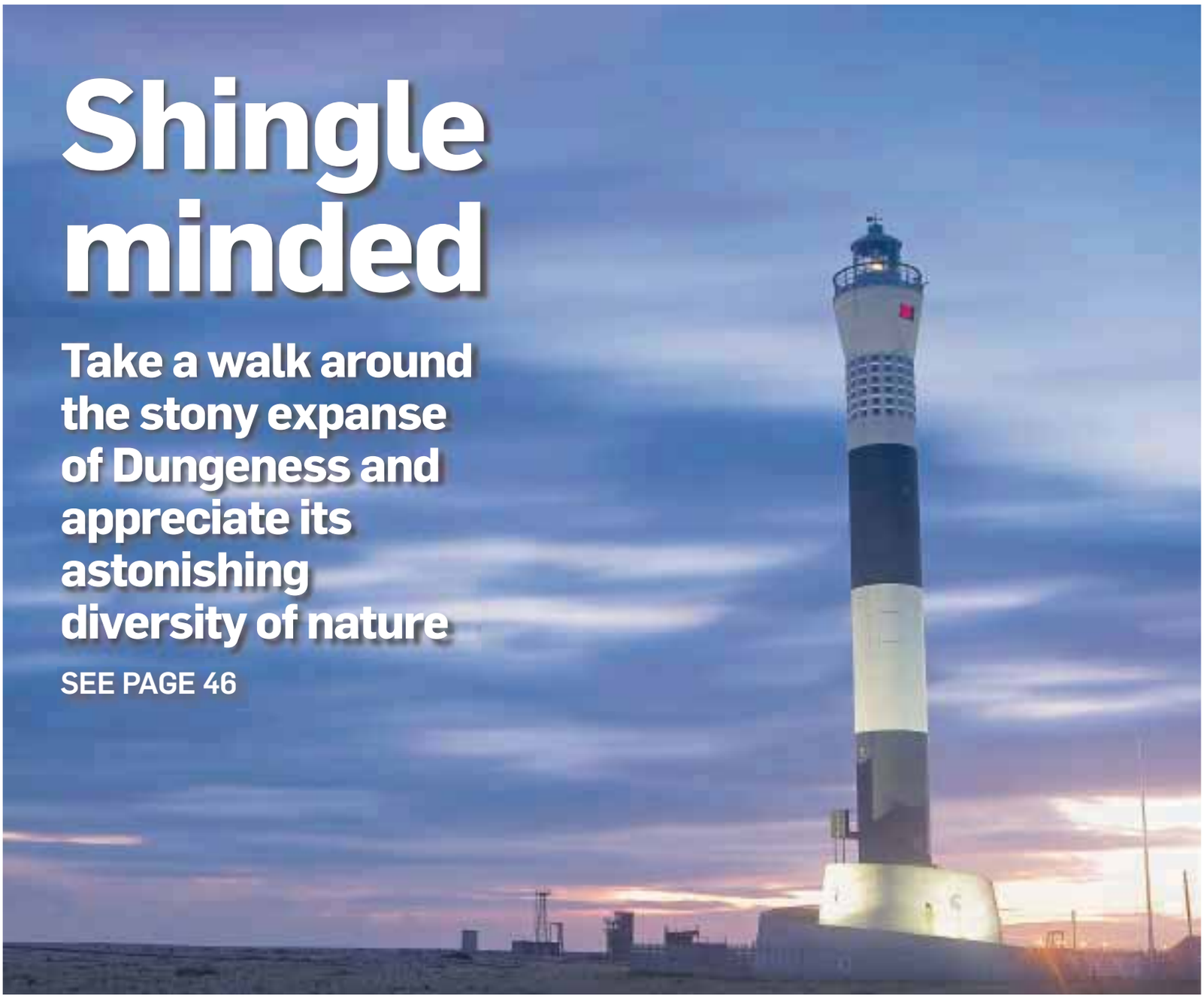
SEE PAGE 48

FRINGE FESTIVAL

Stand-up, mime and so much more to entertain you all

SEE PAGE 50

Kent Weekend



Shingle minded

Take a walk around the stony expanse of Dungeness and appreciate its astonishing diversity of nature

SEE PAGE 46

PLUS: In conversation with 80s icon Michelle Shocked - **interview p39** Now's the time to book your perfect Christmas venue - **party time p43-45** Mercedes lifts the lid on its new dream machine, the third-generation SLK - **driving p63**

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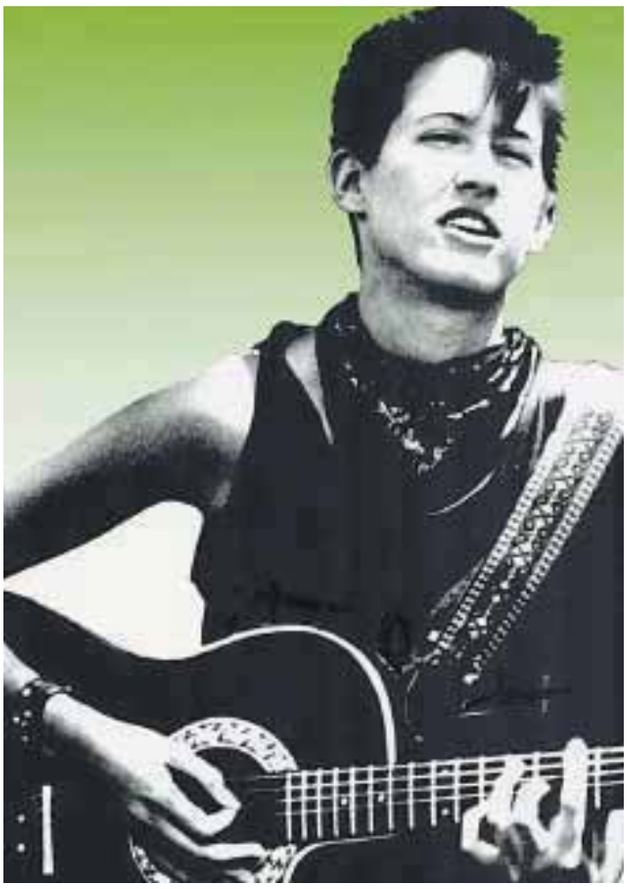
THE INTERVIEW

Michelle Shocked

The wisdom of Sister Shocked

Ed Hill talks to the political activist and 80s musical icon ahead of her tour



MICHELLE Shocked has been an icon of the independent music scene since the 80s. The Texan singer-songwriter's first success came in the UK after a tape of her singing around a festival campfire was released.

She said: "At the time I was not pursuing a career in music at all. I was a squatter and activist, engaged in grass-roots politics. I had not even made a demo."

English producer Pete Lawrence had recorded the tapes on his Walkman in America and released them as The Texas Campfire Tapes. He brought Shocked to the UK to promote the album. It was a strange time for the young star catapulted into the limelight.

"I was on the famous episode of The Tube when Jools Holland used the F word," said Shocked. "I had that brush with fame that you can have the first time round. I was on the cover of the NME, so I was sort of junior famous."

However, Shocked's success came at a time when she was disputing the release of the album.

She said: "They proceeded to do a deal with a major label in the US, claiming that they had contractual rights for the tapes which they had not obtained from me. It led to a lot of legal wrangles, but in the meantime the album went to the top of the UK independent charts.

"By then my own US album had become successful, so I had a second round of fame when that happened.

"It was a time when people run to get your autograph or queue around the block to get into your show. I was big in England, but you do have to have a sense of perspective. I wasn't exactly King of the World."

Throughout her career, Shocked has been regarded as fiercely independent, having had a series of battles with record companies.

She said: "I drew on my political values to deal with this cycle of fame. To the music establishment, that does seem fierce independence, but it was no more so than a group of workers coming together to strike.

"I am very strong-willed. When they say 'fiercely independent', what they mean is 'she can't be bought for any sum of money'."

Shocked has gone through a number of musical styles. She has released albums featuring blues, punk, gospel, folk, swing and bluegrass. The variety has led to accusations of fans not knowing what to expect next.

"My view is that the music was already contained within me. It was just a question of which facet I wanted to reveal at the time. My songs come straight from the roots of American music."

You might think an artist who set up her own label would welcome the internet, which can give musicians more control over their work, but Shocked has her reservations.

She said: "With self-publishing sites like YouTube, it really is a case of the lunatics running the asylum. People now bootleg artists for free and they don't have the slightest idea why a bootleg is theft. I have had to educate my audience about paying for music.

"There is only one bootleg video of me on YouTube. I allow it because it is from a political rally earlier this year where people in Madison, Wisconsin, were protesting against an unfair labour law being introduced by the Governor.

"Most of the stuff you will see of me on YouTube is the quality production videos that I have control over."

The singer is involved in her own project, called Roadworks, to get her music to fans.

She said: "It's my effort to try to pioneer a new style of touring that is almost like subscription for fans.

"The conventional way is that you go in the studio, make an album and then go on the road to promote it. Roadworks shows you don't need a massive big hit to maintain that dialogue with fans. There is an audience that wants to follow you – they just need to hear when you are coming to town. That is where social-networking has become a game-changer. I no longer need radio or TV to promote me."

Shocked is coming to the UK in the 25th anniversary year of the Camp Fire tapes being released. She will be playing at the East Quay in Whitstable later this month.

She said: "The success of the first album was something I wasn't able to deal with at the time. I now have 25 years of wisdom and perspective to draw on.

"I love UK audiences. They are very cynical but sort of innocent at the same time. I always say you get the audience you deserve."

What about the speculation over her stage name? Is it a reference to Electroconvulsive Therapy?

She said: "I was arrested at a demonstration in 1984 in San Franciso. When you're arrested, you have to provide a name. Because it was a political rally, I gave my protest name, which was Michelle Shocked – shocked by the Cold War policies of the Reagan administration.

"There is this weird insistence that I do not know the genesis of my name. Later I adopted it as a stage name to sell records.

"It's the sort of name you give yourself as a 20-year-old going around with a Mohawk, but now I'm a 50-year-old with the same name. That shows real commitment. I must be a true believer because even the people in church call me Sister Shocked when I get up and sing."

■ **Michelle Shocked is at the East Quay, Whitstable, on Saturday, October 22. Visit http://whitlive.co.uk for tickets.**

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ARCHANT KOS MEDIA

HEALTH & BEAUTY

Preparation best way to stay healthy

AUTUMN is now well and truly here and it is this time of year when pharmacists and GPs are beginning to see patients who have coughs and colds and are generally feeling low.

But a little forward-planning can boost the body's defences and give you a fighting chance of staying fit. An autumn health check-up is one way of making sure you have the best possible chance of staying fir throughout the darker days.

If you're starting to feel tired or have little symptoms — sniffles, cold sores, mouth ulcers or a prickly throat — it can be an indicator that your body is not in tip-top shape. Also, if your defences aren't strong then you won't be able to fight off those bugs when they start spreading.

And just because the weather's not so good, experts say don't stay indoors. A healthy jog through the fallen leaves is good for fitness levels as well as being an enjoyable experience.

Natural remedies such as echinacea can also help to keep you fit. The substance has been proven to increase the number of white blood cells, but don't over-use it.

Experts recommend perhaps two weeks on, two weeks off, so your body doesn't get adjusted to it or over-stimulated.

Some people believe vitamin C and zinc tablets can help ward off problems of the ear, nose and throat.

Zinc is vital for supporting your immune system and good for wound-healing, while Manuka honey is believed to have anti-bacterial, anti-fungal and anti-viral properties.

Experts say if you have a problem, tackle it. So make sure you go to the doctor and get some advice.

The worst thing you can do is stagger on regardless – possibly passing your germs on to work colleagues, friends and family so they suffer, too.

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Angela's Swim School
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Meatballs proved the answer to my last-minute dining dilemma

RESTAURANT **REVIEW**

LOOKING for somewhere to eat in Maidstone at 7pm on a Friday night is no easy task.

After being turned away from a number of restaurants, my housemate and I had no problem agreeing to a half-hour wait when the already-busy Wildwood said they'd find us a table.

A bit of a Tardis inside, the restaurant is spacious and modern while also managing to retain a level of intimacy. Being able to pack in the diners certainly worked in our favour as 15 minutes later we were seated and sipping our drinks and nibbling on some olives (£2.75) while we chose our starters.

I opted for the meatballs (£5.50), smothered in tomato sauce and topped off with melted cheese, which set a very high bar for the rest of the meal.

My housemate chose the baked portobello mushrooms (£5.25). The gorgonzola cheese was a little strong, but the dish was very tasty, and we both enjoyed mopping up the sauce with our side of mozzarella garlic bread with caramelised onion (£4.85).

For our mains we had smoked haddock risotto (£10.25) and baked spicy cod in tomato sauce (£11.95). The risotto was a beautifully colourful dish that was tasty (with just the

right balance of haddock and other flavours), but it was such a large portion that my housemate struggled to polish it off.

My cod was apparently our waiter's favourite dish, and it was indeed very tasty; however, the tomato sauce was essentially the same that I'd had on my meatballs, but with a large kick of spice thrown in. It was good, but because the meatballs had been so spot-on, it didn't really compare and I found myself constantly diving into our sides of green beans (£2.85) and mixed salad (£3.50) as a cool counterbalance.

Despite feeling stuffed, we were unable to say no when offered the dessert menu, ordering white chocolate cheesecake (£4.75) and sorbet cones (£4.25).

The cheesecake was every bit as delightful as you'd expect. I would generally go for something a little more imaginative than sorbet but felt I had to order this to find out how they could justify charging such a high price.

Two – small – scoops of sorbet (one lemon, one mango) were served in individual cones, balanced in champagne glasses stood on a large wooden platter, so I can only guess the price was directed at the presentation rather than the substance.

Washed down with a couple of glasses of wine and a refreshing fresh-mint lemonade, and finished off with coffee, we had a pleasant evening of some very good food, but next time round I would just have the meatballs as a main course, and probably a starter, too – they were that good.

Our final bill came to £69.80.

Erica Jones

■ **Wildwood**
37-41 Earl Street, Maidstone ME14 1PF
Telephone: 01622 755339
www.wildwoodrestaurants.co.uk

FARMERS' MARKETS

DARTFORD: The farmers' market is held in the pedestrian area of Dartford high street and open to the public between 10am and 2pm on the third Friday of the month. Produce available includes meat, bread, plants and preserves.

MERSHAM: A market is now held at the Farriers Arms, Mersham Forstal, between 2.30pm and 6.30pm on every second and fourth Friday of the month, featuring top-quality produce. It is a newcomer to the increasing number of markets but is proving very popular.

HORSMONDEN: Horsmonden farmers' market, held every other Friday, has some 20 stalls, covering a range of produce including meat, game, poultry, eggs, cheese, fruit and vegetables, bread, jams and pickles, honey, prepared pies, pastries, cakes and bakes.

BRIDGE: The market at the Red Lion Inn, Bridge, on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month aims to give shoppers the opportunity to buy high-quality, nutritious, fresh local food and drink that contributes to their well-being and also protects their environment.

HYTHE: Hythe farmers' market was established in March 2004 and is now located in the Methodist church hall, between Chapel Street and Prospect Road. It is open on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month from 10am to midday.

ELHAM: The Elham market is held on the second and fourth Sundays of the month in the Rose & Crown pub, from 10am to midday. It offers a selection of fruit and vegetables, eggs, cheese, fresh meat, bread, cakes, honey, jams and wine.

■ **For more information on farmers' markets around the county, visit www.farmersmarkets.org.uk**

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Mercure Maidstone
Hollingbourne, Mr Maidstone, Kent ME17 1RE

IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR AGAIN!

Book your Christmas party today

Prices start from only £17.50 per person for lunch, or £22.50 for an evening meal.

Now taking bookings for tables on Christmas Day and Boxing Day

Christmas Day lunch is priced at £30 per adult in the Cumberland Suite, or £50 per adult in our fabulous restaurant, The Orangery.
On Boxing Day we are running our standard carvery ~ £10 for soup & carvery.

Tables are selling fast for both. Book now to avoid disappointment!

SMITHS COURT HOTEL

To find out more or to book a table, please call us on
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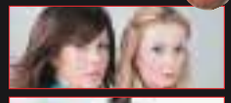

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01227 711774/ 711074 | www.spicemasterrestaurant.com

CHRISTMAS PARTY VENUES

LEAS CLIFF HALL

Hall's wonderful setting is the ideal place to have your party

THE Leas Cliff Hall in Folkestone not only provides excellent entertainment, it can also play host to private events, catering for functions small or large, including conferences, meetings, exhibitions, dinners and weddings.

Christmas parties also take place each year in the Channel Suite, the perfect venue for a magical festive get-together, with stunning views overlooking the English Channel.

These parties have been taking place during the last five years and each year has become more and more popular, with small and large groups being catered for.

There are on-site catering facilities, so all food is prepared and served in the building and brought to guests freshly cooked.

There are dates available throughout December, and your evening will include a welcome drink on arrival, a three-course seasonal meal and disco until 2am – all for the price of just £30 per person.

For more information or to book, email Peter at lchfunctions@leascliffhall.co.uk/ or phone him for a chat on 01303 228606.

LONDON BEACH COUNTRY HOTEL & GOLF CLUB

À la carte menu is sure to leave you spoilt for choice

THE London Beach Country Hotel & Golf Club is now taking bookings for Christmas and New Year's Eve.

Throughout December the resort has a delicious midweek lunch menu, running Monday to Thursday, from 12.30pm-2.15pm, offering three courses for £15 or two for £9.95.

In the evenings the stunning restaurant has a delightful à la carte menu, which offers a variety of dishes that are bound to leave you spoilt for choice.

Friday and Saturday evenings in December are the popular Christmas party nights.

These are priced at £39.95 per person and include a three-course dinner, party decorations and a disco until 11.30pm.

Christmas Day is always very popular, at £60 per adult and £30 per child aged between 10 and 16.

This includes an exquisite five-course menu featuring something to suit everyone's palate.

Why not see New Year in at the Beach? Start the evening with a glass of Champagne, followed by a magnificent six-course meal, music from Martin Croones and fireworks at midnight to complete a wonderful evening.

If you would like any further information about Christmas menus, phone reception on 01580 766279 or alternatively email enquiries@londonbeach.com.

PORT LYMPNE MANSION AND GARDENS

A truly charming location

PORT Lympne Wild Animal Park is inviting you to consider celebrating Christmas and New Year at its stunning and unique mansion and gardens.

With so much history and charm, it's the perfect venue to celebrate the festive period.

The park has a number of party options to suit you and your budget:

Private hire: If you are looking to organise something really special, the exclusive bespoke party offers you the opportunity to plan your Christmas party to the very finest detail.

Join in the fun: Alternatively, if you are planning for a smaller team but still want to soak up the atmosphere of this fantastic location, the shared parties promise to be a great night.

They are priced at just £40 per person.

New Year's Eve gala ball: Why not welcome in the New Year with an unforgettable black-tie gala buffet evening? Tickets for this great event cost £65 per person.

To make your reservation for the gala ball, or for further information, phone the Port Lympne hospitality and events department on 01303 234111 or email enquiries@aspinallfoundation.org.

THE WINTER GARDENS

Dance in a winter wonderland

THE Winter Gardens in Margate will be a winter wonderland this Christmas perfect for a family night out, a romantic meal or even an office party.

With the help of sophisticated sound and magical lighting effects, Queens Hall will be transformed into a classy winter setting.

Visitors will be greeted with iced cocktails to get the party started before a three-course chef's carvery is served at the beautifully-decorated tables.

Once guests have eaten, it is time for the live spectacular of music, theatre and costumes.

And obviously no Christmas party is complete without a disco.

After the spectacular live show has reached its dramatic finale, the resident DJ will entertain guests into the early hours.

All of this is included in the £28 ticket price and whether you are a party of two or 200, the Winter Gardens is looking to give you a Christmas party to remember.

So what are you waiting for? Reserve your place on the coolest list for 2011. And, while you're at it, why not take advantage of the theme and treat yourself to a new outfit to accompany the wonderland backdrop?

Party dates available in December include Saturday 17th, Monday 19th and Wednesday 21st.

For more information and to book your party, phone 01843 296 111 or email admin@thewintergardens.co.uk.

Christmas at...

The Mansion & Gardens, Port Lympne

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Shared Christmas Parties
New Years Eve

To book or for further information call 01303 234111 or email enquiries@aspinallfoundation.org

The coolest Christmas Party in East Kent: Winter Wonderland at Margate Winter Gardens

Saturday 17th Dec
Monday 19th Dec
Wednesday 21st Dec

- Magical Winter Wonderland setting
- Iced cocktail meet and greet
- Three-course sumptuous meal
- Live show spectacular
- DJ into the early hours

Whether you are small party of two or a group of two hundred, reserve your place now, on the coolest guest list in 2011.

For bookings and further information contact our central booking office at:
Margate Winter GardensTel: 01843 296111
admin@margatewintergardens.co.uk

All dates subject to availability
Guests should be 18 yrs or above.

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CHRISTMAS PARTY VENUES

MECURE MAIDSTONE

Hotel's got a licence to party

WHETHER you're with colleagues, friends or family, there's plenty of fun and enjoyment to be had at the Ramada Jarvis, Maidstone.

Strut up the red carpet in your glamorous outfit with a licence to thrill and join a Bond-themed Christmas party where your mission, should you choose to accept, is to party!

Pull those crackers and dig into the fun festive table centres where you'll find a few items to help your themed party look – the best Bond character costume is optional.

A delicious Christmas party dinner is served with Bond-inspired dishes to get your jaws around.

The resident DJ gets the dance-floor jumping with sensational sounds to keep this Christmas party 2011 started.

The bar opens at 7pm and dinner will be served at 8pm, with disco until late. The £29.95 ticket includes a three-course meal, DJ and novelties.

If you fancy making a refreshing break of it, why not stay the night? You won't have to worry about driving or going out in the cold as the comfortable, welcoming rooms are just a short walk from the party.

Make your 2011 festive celebrations a year to remember at the Ramada Jarvis in Maidstone.

For more information, phone 0844 8159045 or email csales.maidstone@ramadajarvis.co.uk.

SMITHS COURT HOTEL

Enjoy festive food and guaranteed snow

THIS year, why not book your Christmas party at Smiths Court Hotel in Margate and benefit from great food, an excellent atmosphere and even a Yuletide overnight stay if required?

From the guaranteed snow and friendly staff to the carol-singing polar bear, the festive tables and the themed menu, the hotel offers a night that will live long in the memory.

Prices start from only £17.50 per person for lunch, or £22.50 for an evening meal.

On Friday and Saturday the evening includes a free disco, with prices at £29.95 per person.

Smiths Court is also taking bookings for Christmas Day lunch and its popular Boxing Day carvery.

To find out more about Christmas at Smiths Court, or to book a table, phone 01843 222310 or email info@smithscourt.co.uk, quoting KOSX9.

SPICE MASTER

Add a bit of kick to your festivities

THE Spice Master restaurant in Hersden, near Canterbury, offers a wonderfully-spicy Christmas venue with superb live music.

Priding itself on Bangladeshi and Indian cuisine of excellence, the eatery has a team of dedicated chefs preparing a distinctive Spice Master flavour, along with monthly theme nights and live music on weekdays.

This Christmas, why not try something a little more exotic than your turkey and cranberry sauce and instead savour some classical Indian dishes that really will make your mouth water?

Curry enthusiasts can make an order online using the Spice Master web service which ensures that your order is not only prompt but 100 per cent correct every time.

The team also offers a popular all-day Sunday buffet that offers great value for the whole family.

Spice Master in Hersden, near Canterbury, is open everyday. For more information on how to book, phone 01227 711 774 or email info@spicemasterrestaurant.com.

WALLET'S COURT HOTEL AND RESTAURANT

Historic, charming setting

THERE are few places as special as Wallett's Court Hotel and Restaurant, especially in the cold winter months.

The beautiful, cosy 16th-century manor house provides the perfect setting for a Christmas party.

With fresh local food served up by head chef Ryan Tasker, the choice of Wallett's Court as a festive venue is certainly a right one.

This Yuletide season, the hotel is offering a fantastic three-course Christmas party menu for £30. With award-winning cuisine and a relaxed atmosphere, make this Christmas do a truly special one.

For more information, phone 01304 852 424 or visit www.wallettscourthotelspa.com.

WALKS Dungeness

Visit www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent

For those who enjoy watching wildlife, the RSPB nature reserve at Dungeness offers the opportunity to take in nature at its finest

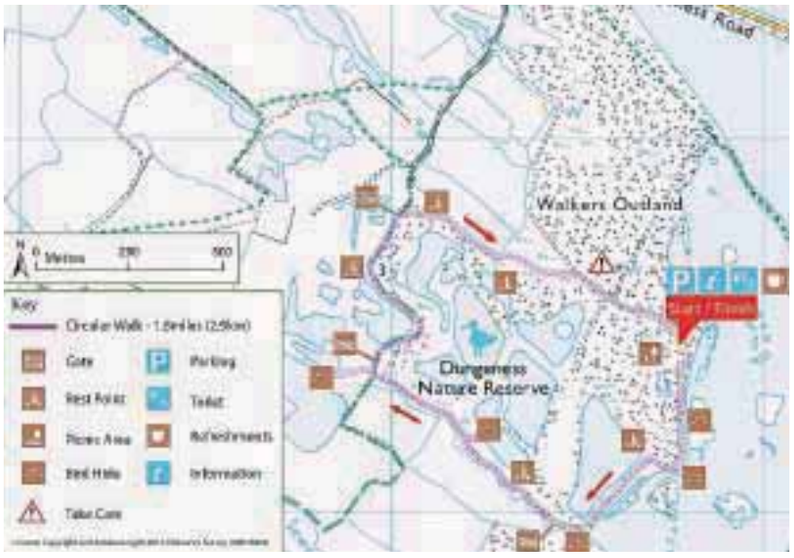
TAKE a walk in a wildlife-watcher's paradise at Dungeness RSPB nature reserve and learn more about this very wild and atmospheric area of Kent.

If you haven't been to Dungeness before, nothing can quite prepare you for the amazing landscape – one of the largest expanses of shingle in the world.

The birdwatching opportunities are second to none and the wildlife and plantlife in the area is rich and varied. Whether you are a knowledgeable watcher or just getting started, there is always something to see.

For the novice, most hides contain helpful charts to help you identify the birds you may spot. Often a scarce grebe or diver can be seen on site during the winter and it is one of the best places in the UK to see the beautiful smew.

This short walk leads you around a series of hides where there is an excellent chance of seeing bitterns and bearded tits in winter.



There is plenty to be seen at other times, too.

Dungeness's position, jutting into the English Channel, makes it ideally placed to watch for migrant birds, with wheatears, swallows, martins and warblers regularly seen.

The RSPB reserve, where last year purple herons bred successfully in the UK for the first time, welcomes families – there is a range of activities throughout the year. It's a great place for children to become 'wildlife detectives' and enjoy learning about nature.

Nearby is Dungeness village, which seems more like a scattered collection of dwellings than a typical village; small wooden houses in the main, many built around old railway coaches.

The most famous house is Prospect Cottage, formerly owned by the late artist and film-director Derek Jarman. The cottage itself is painted black, with a poem written on one side.

The garden, however, is the main attraction. Reflecting the bleak, windswept landscape of the peninsula, it is made of pebbles, driftwood, scrap metal and a few hardy plants.

If you have some time after your walk, the nearby Denge sound mirrors make for a fascinating visit. Built between 1928 and 1930, the three massive concrete structures formed an experimental early-warning system that aimed to detect invading aircraft by focusing sound waves.

Their different forms are evidence of their experimental nature; they were not particularly effective and were abandoned when radar became available.

FACT FILE

- **Location:** Dungeness, TN29 9PD
- **Distance:** 1.8 miles (2.9km); allow one hour
- **OS Explorer Map:** 125
- **Terrain:** An easy, flat walk with a mixture of hard surface area with some short grass sections
- **Gates:** Three
- **Step count:** Approximately 3,800
- **Parking:** The nature reserve has a car park near the visitor centre. A small fee is payable prior to access the site.
- **Refreshments and facilities:** Refreshments and facilities are available at the visitor centre

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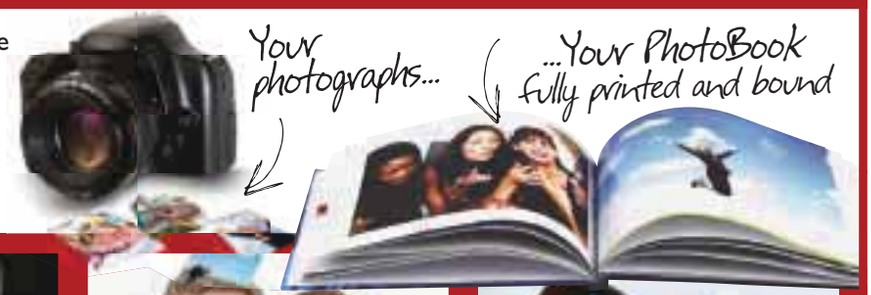

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White Horse
Boughton

Why here...
Well located off the A2/M2, a relaxed and friendly atmosphere awaits you. With original oak beams and an open fire, our restaurant is ideal for intimate groups or large parties.

On the menu...
Roasted shoulder of Brogdale pork, Bramley apple sauce, roast potatoes. King prawns sautéed with garlic, chilli, lime and parsley. Dark chocolate and Amoretto truffle torte, vanilla ice cream.

How to book...
The White Horse Inn, Boughton ME13 9AL
phone: 01227 751343
www.whitehorsecanterbury.co.uk

Fantastic food and drink with no cab needed

TOP-CLASS hotels are not just about the bedroom, bar and spa facilities any more. Instead, customers who travel from far and wide to visit Kent need to be assured of a top-quality meal, too.

Walking along the downs or skimming stones across the water is a surefire way to work up an appetite and a good hotel restaurant with an excellent menu can be the most convenient and pleasurable way to satisfy hungry guests.

Hotel restaurants are no longer reserved strictly for the people staying within the building as daytrippers and food connoisseurs look to put these eateries to the test.

Trying out new restaurants is more than a pleasant way to spend a Friday evening, with more and more people taking up the serious hobby of dining out weekly to try new venues and fresh dishes. This is action of which hotels are determined to be part.

There is a growing number of hotel dining rooms associating themselves with top chefs or culinary celebrities as they look to attract custom from the street as well as the bedrooms upstairs.

The advantages of having a decent chef and superb menu within a hotel are there for all to see.

With a hotel eatery, there is no need for diners to worry about paying for a taxi home or having to limit the amount of wine they drink with their glorious meal.

They can stay and make a night of it, finishing at their own leisure before wandering upstairs to a comfortable bed. Here are six of the best hotel restaurants from around the county. Enjoy!

London Beach
Tenterden

Why here...
The London Beach Country Hotel and Spa in Tenterden is situated in the beautiful Wealden countryside, with magnificent views. The standard of food and the ambience remains top-class.

On the menu...
The exceptional menu offers many wonderful treats for lunch or dinner. Most produce is fresh and sourced locally whenever possible. There is an extensive dessert range.

How to book...
London Beach Country Hotel and Spa, Ashford Road, Tenterden TN30 6HX
phone: 01580 766279
www.londonbeach.com

The Olive Tree
Ramada Dover

Why here...
The new Olive Tree restaurant is open seven days a week offering a choice of breakfast, lunch and dinner in a friendly atmosphere.
It offers a variety of menus to suit all budgets, with a special pensioners' menu from Monday to Friday lunchtimes. There is also 'live cooking' every Thursday and Friday evening and a pianist every Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday lunchtimes. Free on-site parking.

On the menu...
An à la carte menu offers dishes selected by an international head chef every night of the week. Italian buffet night is on Thursday, while Friday evening is spice night. For Sunday lunch there is the ever-popular eat-all-you-can carvery buffet.

How to book...
The Olive Tree Restaurant, Ramada Hotel, Singledge Lane, Whitfield, Dover CT16 3EL; phone: 01304 821230;
email: reservations@ramadadover.co.uk

Walpole Bay
Cliftonville

Why here...
The Walpole Living Museum and its unique gallery of napkin art are very special attractions. There is also an outdoor terrace with fantastic sea views, so it's ideal for both summer and winter.

On the menu...
The venue is open for breakfast and serves snacks and cream teas all day. Dinner is served from 7pm to 9.30pm and uses locally-sourced produce for English dishes. Fish is a speciality.

How to book...
Walpole Living Museum, Fifth Avenue, Cliftonville; phone: 01843 221703; www.walpolebayhotel.co.uk

Waterfront
Dover Marina

Why here...
The Waterfront restaurant is open seven days a week offering a choice of breakfast, lunch and dinner.
With its warm, friendly ambience, views over Dover seafront and a pianist playing on Thursday, Friday and Sunday lunchtime, it makes an ideal venue for dining.
The Waterfront restaurant really does have that certain 'je ne sais quoi'... with fine dining from France and England that is simply delicious.

On the menu...
An à la carte menu offers a variety of dishes selected by the international head chef. There is a pensioners' lunch menu available on all Thursdays and extensive Sunday carvery buffet weekly. The restaurant also serves a table d'hote menu for both lunch and dinner.

How to book...
Best Western Dover Marina Hotel and Spa, Waterloo Crescent, Dover CT17 9BP; phone:01304203633; email: reservations@dovermarinahotel.co.uk

Comfort Inn
Ramsgate

Why here...
Situated on the cliffs at Ramsgate, it has excellent views of the English Channel, ample parking and good food. Top-class staff ensure that your meal is a memorable experience.

On the menu...
Traditional favourites on the menu include the mixed grill, liver and bacon, steak-and-ale pie, roast beef, curry, fish and chips and ham and eggs. The menu has something for everyone and prices range from £6.95 to £10.95.

How to book...
Comfort Inn, Victoria Parade, Ramsgate CT11 8DT; phone: 01843 592345

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT **Six of the Best** CONTACT 01303 817150 OR EMAIL **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

KENT ATTRACTIONS

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

Half-term and Halloween
Park afterlife

Drusillas, Alfriston
Sat to Mon, October 22-31
01323 874100
www.drusillas.co.uk.

IF YOU are bored of all your local haunts and in the mood for some spooky surprises, stake out the fun at Drusillas Park over the Halloween period.

Between Saturday, October 22, and Monday, October 31, Drusillas has some fang-tastically scary adventures to keep your little horrors' half-term happy.
Venture through the creepy corridors of The Haunted Cottage into the terror-tory of Winifred the Witch as she plays hide and shriek with the unsuspecting public.
Visitors can also jump aboard Thomas the Tank Engine to complete the Pumpkin Challenge and ride through the Spooky Tunnel.
Open from 10am to 5pm.

Psychic show
TV mediums on a voyage

Woodville Halls, Gravesend
Tuesday, November 1
01474 337774
www.woodvillehalls.com

EXPECT the unexpected as the UK's first-ever interactive Psychic And Science Show attempts to finally prove if there is life after death.
The perfomance will be heading to Gravesend's Woodville Halls just after Halloween bringing experts to the stage to allegedly take you on a voyage of discovery and enlightenment.
Presenters Chris Conway and Richard Felix, from popular television show TV's Most Haunted, conduct experiments that guests can control, including seances, ouija boards, table-tipping, lone vigils and ghost hunts.
They will be joined on stage by UK Paranormal Network founder Gary Brown and ghost-hunter Denise Mott – this is one scarefest you won't want to miss!
Tickets to the show cost £21.

Classic barn-dancing
Eat, drink, jig and reel

Haguelands Village, Romney Marsh
Saturday, November 19, at 7pm
01303 873535 or 01303 874727
www.hagulandsvillage.co.uk

HAGUELANDS Village, one of Kent's best-kept secrets, is maximizing its new entertainment licence and holding numerous fun events.
Next up is a traditional British barn dance, at which The Elastic Band will play jigs and reels and everyone can strip the willow!
The event includes a two-course farm supper of roast ham and chicken, sausage plait, harvest pie, salads and jacket potatoes, fruit pies and farmhouse puddings made in the on-site bistro.
Haguelands also now offers a bar serving locally-produced ales, ciders, wines and beers.
Tickets are selling fast, so don't miss out on this great fun night for just £22 per head. Booking in advance is essential.

A wizard time
Ghostly trails in the garden

Penshurst Place, Tonbridge
Sat to Sun, October 22-30
01892 870866
www.penshurstplace.com

IT IS the last week of the season at beautiful Penshurst Place, so it is a chance at half-term for parents and the little ones to enjoy some autmnal scenery and a few games.

There is a spooky pumpkin trail around the gardens throughout the day, followed by the witchy and wizardy craft activities in the education room.
There will also be a specal ghastly gourmet menu for youngsters at the Garden Tea Room.
Parents have also got three showings of the play The Search For Elizabeth from Aardvark Productions throughout the day on Sunday, October 30, featuring medieval costumes and peasants' stories. Children who dress up can win prizes.

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www.hevercastle.co.uk
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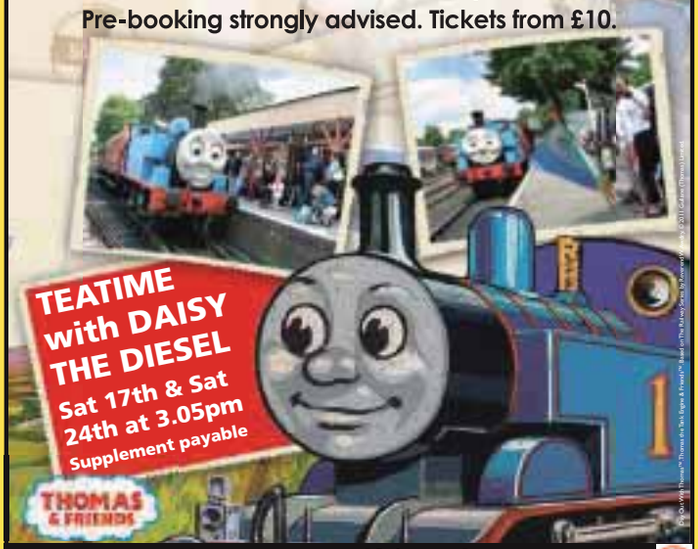

www.thomasandfriends.com

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DICKENS WORLD EVENTS

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Ludwig Van Beethoven

Friday 14th October

Adult Only Ticket £25.00
with a 3-course supper £39.50

Friday
28th October

GHOST TOUR & BALL

Join us for a night of freaky fun!

The evening kicks off with 'Max and The Monster Men' who will keep you entertained with Halloween hits while you are awaiting your 'Tour of the Evil Dead'. Once you have been transformed into garish monsters of the night, join us for our 'Halloween Ball' in the themed Britannia Theatre complete with adult only Circus show acts.

Evil dead tours from 7:00pm
Show & Ball starts at 9:30pm
Strictly over 18's

Only £15 each

BRITANNIA THEATRE EVENTS

Jongleurs Comedy Night

Friday 4th November

Doors open at 7.20pm • Comedians start 8.30pm
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Saturday 26th November
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Christmas Events

Christmas Launch
Arrival of Father Christmas
Saturday 12th November, Free event

Christmas Jongleurs Special
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Christmas Parties
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Dates throughout December,
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Johnny English Reborn (PG)
Paranormal Activity 3 (15)
Real Steel (12A)
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The Three Musketeers 2D (12A)
The Three Musketeers 3D (12A)
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EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

Street-arts spotlight
Banksy at dockyard

The Historic Dockyard, Chatham
Thursday to Thursday, October 13-27
01634 823800
www.thedockyard.co.uk

A NATIONAL touring exhibition, including work from graffiti artist Banksy, will be heading to the No 1 Smithery at The Historic Dockyard in Chatham.
The show explores the controversial ways that street art has moved away from the painted wall into printmaking and other media.
It showcases established and emerging street artists, both British and international, including names such as Banksy, D*Face, Jamie Hewlett, Eine, Miss Tic, Shepard Fairey and Swoon.
Items include paintings, screen prints, linocuts, stencil prints, stickers and folded books.
Although street artists now produce work for galleries, most still work outside systems.

Set the tape for this one
Top stand-up

St Mary's Hall Studio Theatre, Canterbury
Tue and Wed, October 18-19
01227 787787

BLENDING stand-up comedy, mime, vaudeville and puppetry, The Boy With Tape On His Face was the runaway hit of last year's Edinburgh Fringe, scooping five-star reviews and an Edinburgh Comedy Award nomination for best newcomer.
Now there's another chance to catch this award-winning show as it embarks on an international tour, taking in the UK, Ireland, Europe and South Africa.
Created by New Zealand stand-up Sam Wills, the show appeals to the child in all of us. Wills has created a charming character who opens up a world of singing shoes, mischievous dustbins, audience participation and the heart-warming power of gaffer-tape.

Deal Festival
Latvian Olga hits the keys

Deal Town Hall
Friday, October 21
01304 381134
Tickets £12 each

THE second of the Deal Festival autumn series takes place next week as brilliant Latvian pianist Olga Jegunova returns for what is sure to be another top concert.
Having graduated from the Royal College of Music as a student of the great Russian pianist Professor Dmitri Alexeev, Jegunova has won numerous international piano competitions and performed at many of the world's festivals.
Her 2011 solo performances include working with the Sinfonia Concertante, Lithuanian Chamber Orchestra and Manchester Camerata.
Jegunova will perform a wonderful selection of music, including the traditional Scarlatti's Sonata in D minor.
Tickets are on sale now.

Mulled beer and music
Brewery tour

Shepherd Neame, Faversham
Sat and Sun, October 29-30
www.shepherdneame.co.uk

ENJOY live music, ghost stories and traditional mulled beer at Shepherd Neame's award-winning visitor centre.
Ale fans will need to keep their wits about them at Halloween as ghostly figures tell tales of unusual sightings at the brewery.
Ghost tours take place on Saturday and Sunday, October 29-30, with the chance to warm up afterwards with a pint of Shepherd Neame's new Spooks Ale.
There is also a specially-themed Halloween Beer and Food Evening on October 29 in the brewery's 15th-century function room.
The Winter Beer and Food Evening on Friday, November 4, will have four seasonal courses matched with ales and lagers. The event includes a guided tour and tutored beer tasting.

STAGE & ARTS

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Guys & Dolls
Gamble on a true classic

Orchard Theatre, Dartford
Wed to Sat, October 19-22
01322 220000
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

BROADWAY comes to north Kent through the classic musical Guys & Dolls as Dartford Amateur Operatic And Dramatic Society takes to the stage once more.
Having successfully put on The Wizard Of Oz, My Fair Lady and, most recently, Calamity Jane, the group is now attempting the West End hit.
The show tells the story of a group of small-time gamblers and the ladies in their lives.
Nathan Detroit bets his pal Sky Masterson that he can make the next lady he sees fall in love with him.
When the next lady happens to be neighbourhood missionary Sarah Brown, the stage is set for an evening of high-spirited entertainment.
Toe-tapping songs like Luck Be A Lady and the title song Guys And Dolls, should make for a great night out.

Terrible tales
After dark in the graveyard

The Canterbury Tales
Thu to Mon, October 27-31
01227 784600
www.canterburytales.org.uk

THE Canterbury Tales is turning terrible this Halloween for a one-off series of after-dark performances of Chaucer's classic tales.
This is the first time that the group will take the performances outside to the graveyard of the former church, which is now home to the award-winning visitor attraction.
Visitors will be treated to a horrifying rendition of Sir Naughty Knight's quest to right a wrong, join Noctine and Nigel in The Pardoner's Tale and be terrified by the Haunting of the Willful Boy.
For a scarily good end to the evening, the audience will be guided through the attraction's diseased, derelict streets of medieval England.

New talent in county town
Taste of Fame

Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone
Tue to Sat, October 25-29
01622 758611
www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk

TOP 80s musical Fame will be performed by a new group of youngsters looking to make a break in the entertainment industry.
More than 70 young aspiring performers from Kent have been called back to star in this year's show after a huge audition at the Hazlitt Arts Centre in Maidstone.
Youth theatre leader Paul Foster said: "Lots of our older members have left to pursue a career in the arts or have gained a place in some of the top drama schools and universities around the UK, so we were able to take on a lot of new people.
The successful auditionees will star in the show from Tuesday, October 25, to Saturday, October 29.

Acoustic Triangle
Top trio come onboard

The Ship Theatre, Sevenoaks
Sunday, October 23, at 8pm
01732 740889
www.listeningroom.co.uk

MALCOLM Creese, Tim Garland and Gwilym Simcock, collectively known as Acoustic Triangle, are embarking on a short UK tour.
The trio have become recognised in both classical and popular genres with a loyal fan base, having toured and recorded music for the last 10 years.
They are bringing their extraordinary, unamplified music to The Ship Theatre in Hollybush Lane, Sevenoaks, on Sunday, October 23.
With Tim Garland's busy schedule that includes playing in Chick Corea's band, and the equally busy schedule of Mercury Prize nominee Gwilym Simcock, this is a rare special event to come to Kent. Tickets cost £15.

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HOMES

Adapt just one wall to add all the extra space you could need to your home

Being cooped up indoors all winter may just highlight a need for more space. If you don't want to move house, though, give some thought to adding another room to your property instead.

The contemporay orangeries from Elephant are entirely bespoke and an ideal way to introduce more space without having to sacrifice your garden.

Choosing a wall of Elephant's bi-folding aluminium doors means the space has a dual function: close them and you gain an indoor dining room, playroom or kitchen; leave them open and your garden becomes an extension of your living space.

Because Elephant manufactures everything itself, you can pick different colour finishes for the inside and out to ensure the orangery complements your home.

Elephant will project-manage the whole thing, from lighting to landscaping, so taking a massive weight off your mind.

Conservatories are one of the best ways to give your home that all-important light and airy feeling.

As a place to relax with large windows, they allow a view out to the garden, so increasing the idea of space in the home and making a connection between the interior and exterior space.

They are also ideal for entertaining, especially in the summer months when doors can be left open, making for a seamless transition between the home and the outside, enabling the party or other social event to spill out of the house into the sunshine.

With the addition of plants and carefully-arranged furniture, they can add markedly to the style and individuality of any home as well as considerably increasing its value.

The addition of a drinks cabinet is always welcome, especially when the room is used for entertaining guests, and a dining table can also be used to give something of an alfresco feel to meals taken in the room rather than in a more formal home setting

Elephant staff are experts in providing exactly what is needed to give the home that little bit extra when it comes to conservatories with style.

The company has a wealth of experience and has seen how changing fashions in home design can be incorporated into the different styles offered to give each design it unique points and make each creation something to be admired – the final results being a proud addition to any house.

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Orangery

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Christmas comes early if you buy from this house-builder

HOMEBUYERS in Kent who reserve a Bovis home in October will find an extra present under the Christmas tree to help make the festive budget stretch that little bit further.

That's because the housebuilder will be leaving £500 of vouchers to spend at John Lewis or Waitrose which could pay for presents for family and friends or all the festive food and drink needed to celebrate a new life in a new home.

Bovis Homes is offering the vouchers to all those who reserve a home at one of its developments in Ashford, Hawkinge, Minster on Sheppey and Sittingbourne and move in before the end of the year.

These developments include Chestnut Place, Liberty Green, Abbey Place and Meadowbank at Great Easthall Farm.

"It may seem a bit early to start thinking about Christmas, but for new homebuyers, now is the time to make that reservation," said Bovis Homes marketing director Kevin Wilkins.

"If you reserve a Bovis home this month you could be in by Christmas and celebrating the festive season in style courtesy of our special John Lewis package.

"We'd like to invite all homebuyers in the area to get in touch and we'll be able to discuss the various purchase-assistance schemes we have that can help them make the move and take advantage of this Christmas offer."

Joint scheme is finished early

CONSTRUCTION company Denne has completed a housing development in Hillborough, Herne Bay.

The 26 semi-detached and terraced properties in Neville Way are all available to buy on the open market.

A joint venture between Denne and Kitewood Estates, these new homes offer the best in modern living and are just half a mile from the town centre, while also being close to the sea.

The properties have two or three bedrooms and have either a garage or an allocated parking space.

Denne worked closely with the engineers, Knapp Hicks, to deliver the second phase of the development several months ahead of schedule following significant demand for the houses after the completion of phase one.

Graham Brown, Denne managing director, said: "We are delighted to see this successful project come to fruition – and so much earlier than orginally scheduled.

"Having worked very closely with the local community throughout this project, we hope we have achieved a development that will breathe new life into Herne Bay."

Prior to completion, Denne was also selected as the preferred development partner by Canterbury City Council for the £50 million mixed-use redevelopment of a council-owned car park in Herne Bay.

Initial proposals for the site include a 60,000 sq ft food store, additional retail space, a medical centre and residential apartments.

Work will begin on the new project in 2012.

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FOLKESTONE

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DOVER

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JANE 50, young at heart, GSOH, divorced, new to Worthing, seeks male who wants to do something adventurous like travel the USA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387526**

LOOKING for company with someone who can restore my faith in the male species! Karen, sensual 36yr old brunette seeking genuine fun and frolics. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377107**

LORRAINE single mum new to the area starting again, OHAC, GSOH, WLTM nice guy to cuddle up with and appreciate, maybe more. Single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377097**

LAURA slim attractive stylish feminine, GSOH looking for similar to enjoy good times with. Discretion expected/assured. Any age/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377095**

KAREN 58, 5ft 6ins, medium build, fun loving, romantic, caring, extrovert, seeks male of similar age for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387902**

TALL long haired brunette, slim attractive, big green eyes, WLTM gent for mutual companionship, maybe leading to more. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376559**

MIA attractive slim fit female looking for someone to put the spark back in my life, seeking fun, adventurous and passionate male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376557**

LYDIA quiet black female, slim, looking for love with nice guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376421**

I don't wanna be alone and unattached for another Xmas! Bev, attractive, big hearted, many interests, seeks male willing to take an interest in me! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376593**

KAZ 32yr old intellectual mixed race female, likes gym, meals in/out, seeks reliable, honest male, 38-58yrs to get to know for ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376591**

NATALIE blonde blue eyed nurse, 39yrs medium build, no ties, life is good but I'm missing someone to love and lust after. Can you help? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376589**

DONNA 26yrs, blue eyes, blonde, bored of spending nights in alone, looking for average looking male, 23-55yrs for TLC. Dads welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376563**

DONNA lost my faith in men and looking for someone feisty to relight my fire, are you the one, call me, whatya got to loose? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375705**

JULIE pretty 38yr old Irish female who is lonely as new to the area, looking for male up to 65yrs for tactile companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374705**

JANE passionate lady seeking unconventional young at heart male 35-50 for free spirited, open-minded fun and new experiences. Single dads welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375611**

JEANETTE big brown eyed busty fit size 10 with lots of interest, searching for a sincere man to share love and life with. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374703**

ANNETTE likes cinema, theatre, seeks male, 60-70 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387476**

JENNY very young shy black female looking for reliable, genuine nice older man to help me become an attentive lover, 40-70yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374701**

HELLO I'm Jane, attractive, genuine, caring, intelligent, romantic and single at 38yrs, what are you waiting for? Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374677**

26YR old Indian princess looking for discreet older N/S professional male to make life a bit more interesting and share mutual companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373089**

HI I'm Louise, an easygoing sensual slim blonde looking for someone to have fun with initially maybe more later. Call me. Any age/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373009**

DEE blonde, mature, young looking, seeking sugar daddy, any offers? Eastbourne. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387722**

LINDA 68, N/S, likes nights in, meals out, holidays, GSOH, seeking a gent 60-70 for LTR. Surrey. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375651**

LIBBY 36, newly single, no hang-ups, WLTM outgoing male to wine/dine and forever be mine. Don't miss out! Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375607**

TASHA 37, blonde tanned and very pretty, seeks well dressed older male with GSOH for fun meets, loving treats and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375605**

LESLIE 34yr old singleton, fun and vivacious looking for laughs/giggles with some great company. If you like the sound of me, pls call. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375579**

47YR old female, slim, seeks tall male for relationship. West Sussex. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372783**

JENNI 36 slim pretty black female, seeks tall white male who is going to take care of me and be loved in return. Dads welcome 30-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375767**

KERRY 26yr old discreet attractive fit female who has been alone for far too long, looking for male 30-65yrs for convenient friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375765**

JO bright bubbly attractive country loving lass, looking for solvent older male to have a really good time with. Is that you? ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375763**

KELLY blue eyed 21yr old blonde looking for someone who knows how to treat a lady for fun times together, 30-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375703**

AFFABLE serene black attractive female, slim, 37, friendly, likes reading, nature, theatre, music, WLTM genuine, caring, N/S gent, 34-47 to share laughter and life. London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369411**

CHRIS attractive slim redhead seeks nice male to relax with, get to know and share a glass of wine and maybe a takeaway. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375701**

CHARLOTTE 30, sweet French female, long legs, sporty, fit and healthy, seeking well built, fit guy to share interests and show me new ones. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372687**

GEORGINA likes horses, dogs, walks, seeks male, 60-72 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386426**

LUCY bubbly attractive 32yr old blonde seeking similar naughty boy to share the good side of life with. Age/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373109**

CLAIRE Gorgeous fun loving brunette, 29, 5ft 4ins, employed, OHAC, looking for manly male up to 45yrs for no strings good times and fine wine. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373107**

CASSIE looking for good times, laughs, meals out with down to earth male, 30-65yrs who is looking for fun not commitment. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375577**

CAROL 39yrs attractive slim brunette just looking for genuine caring man for romance, meals in and maybe more. Any age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375575**

JUDY 56, post op trans gender, seeks guy for LTR. Gosport/Fareham. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372269**

DEBS petite brunette, 38yrs, well travelled, loves food and good wine, WLTM affectionate male for nice times. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372219**

YOUNG looking petite female prepared to try anything once, looking for similar open-minded tactile guy for fun loving times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372217**

CAROLINE 31, Attractive, slim but curvy brunette, witty and fun, seeking relaxed, male for fun times together. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373007**

HI I am Marie, a pretty middle aged lonely divorcee missing male company seeking love and laughter with likeminded man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373003**

CHRISTINE attractive 49yr old female, N/S, caring, GSOH, genuine, seeks male partner of similar age in the Bucks area to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373997**

QUIET genuine 53yr old female, GSOH, likes nights in/out, seeks 40-50yr old N/S male for friendship/LTR. Eastbourne. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386674**

LOVELY tall slim nurse, very caring and fun but missing that va-va-voom! Seeks adventurous male who's up for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374159**

FULL time vacancy arisen for open minded male seeking uncomplicated relationship with slim professional 39yr old female with wicked sense of humour. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374157**

ATTRACTIVE cuddly, genuine, blue eyed blonde, 5ft 3ins, 65, N/S, GSOH, dog owner, animal lover, WLTM tall, well built, animal loving male, 50-69 for friendship, romance, maybe more. Basingstoke. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371467**

LIFE begins at 40! Pam outgoing athletic brunette, tall, slender and attractive, WLTM older male with big personality for lots of fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374155**

30'S female bored with staying in whilst everyone else goes out, looking for similar lonely heart, any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370063**

LIDDY 28yr old genuine kind hearted girl looking for older male, 34-46yrs who can replace the other half of me that's missing. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375157**

ALICIA attractive petite female 22yrs, new to dating scene and area, loves nights in/out, WLTM male for adult fun. ACA. can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375135**

AMANDA cuddly 36yr old easygoing caring lonely female just looking for love with nice guy, 30-55yrs. Nothing ventured, nothing gained. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375133**

SASHA 28yr old beautiful surfer babe looking for fun initially, maybe more with fit confident male who can handle me. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375131**

CAROL slim, blue eyed attractive lady looking for fun friendship maybe more with open minded male happy to accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374675**

KAREN 36, pretty blonde who is stuck in a rut looking for easygoing kinda guy for discreet romantic meals and fun drives out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374673**

CUDDLY lady 65, blue eyed blonde, 5ft 3ins, 65, N/S, GSOH, animal lover, drives, WLTM tall, well built, caring single male, 50-70. Basingstoke. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371473**

SICK of always taking life so seriously, looking for uncomplicated fun times with happy outgoing male. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371545**

30'S female, easy-going, laidback, animal friendly, looking for that special person to share things with, any age/looks. Hope you call. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372233**

TALL slim auburn haired sincere female, 37, looking for genuine fun relationship with open-minded male, 40-65yrs. Must be able to accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372055**

ELIZABETH independent, no ties, solvent, fit and healthy, looking for similar passionate male, any age/looks for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375161**

SANDRA green eyed slim brunette, loves to keep fit, very competitive, seeks reliable mature male who can look after me and be loved in return. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375159**

BLONDE young looking female, seeks older, generous guy to spoil her. Eastbourne. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369413**

ACTIVE slim female 30yrs, easygoing, honest with GSOH and a passion for life looking for genuine man to fall for, 28-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370097**

FEMININE slim, curvy lady, 58, nice eyes/smile, seeks peace loving gent, 50-69 to share travel, theatre, home life and meaningful relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370943**

ANGELA divorced lady, seeking companion to share days out, cinema, meals etc. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387350**

NICKY 47 slim, honest, loyal, seeks tall, dark haired man for relationship. Surrey. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387586**

EM attractive full bodied lady, mild mannered, sensual nature, looking for happy times and loving future with appreciative man. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372659**

CLASSY lady, slim, pretty, young looking graduate, mixed race 38, London, seeking a sugar daddy to spoil and pamper me. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367031**

BIG busty brunette, blue eyes, seeks sexy fella for fun times. Tunbridge Wells. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386430**

ATTRACTIVE slim blonde who enjoys the simple life seeks understanding older male for fun casual relationship/friendship initially, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371547**

SUSAN 38, affectionate outgoing medium built brunette, seeking tall male with GSOH for cosy evenings in with a good wine. Status/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374135**

LINDA slim green eyed brunette WLTM independent, good looking, fun, outdoorsy type guy with no ties for easygoing relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374133**

SINGLE confident black female 32yrs, very attractive with a great body! Loves doing fun and interesting things, seeking a real man. Any race/age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367999**

TALL slim brunette with baby blue eyes seeks strong, sensitive male who knows how and wants to enjoy life too. Can travel/accommodate. 33-47yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367979**

BUSTY nurse slim size 10, brunette, just looking for a bit of fun and good times with understanding nice younger man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372685**

VERY good looking Turkish female looking to meet male 29-45 for fun friendship. Looks/race/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370183**

ACTIVE solvent female with GSOH looking to start life again but this time be a lot more adventurous, care to join me? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370181**

CONFIDENT fun female bored of spending time alone, looking for fun man to share lots of laughs and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370177**

STRIKING blonde 22, green eyes, wicked sense of humour, discreet, lots of spare time at home, looking for open minded friendship 35-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367977**

YOUNG at heart lady with lots to offer Mr Right, looking for open-minded special male for adult fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370013**

SONYA 35, voluptuous, brown hair, blue eyes, 5ft 8ins, mum of 2, employed, seeks N/S male up to 46 with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Children/animals welcome. Littlehampton. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368467**

DIVORCED lonely single mum, blue eyes, employed, OHAC, lots of interests, looking for someone to enjoy life with again. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370011**

33YR old slim curvy dark haired female with a GSOH, loves to spend time indoors and the simple things, WLTM similar male, 38-46yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370057**

I'M Gorgeous, lively and an outrageous flirt seeking a similar professional who thinks he can handle me, fun times guaranteed. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369223**

STUNNING full figured blonde nurse, 32, funny and romantic, WLTM uncomplicated, reliable male, 50-65yrs for companionship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369221**

PAULA tactile and cuddly with blue eyes looking for someone nice who can appreciate a feminine sensual lady. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373585**

LISA 19 curvy brown eyed brunette looking for a fun relationship with caring male up to 67yrs who will appreciate and look after me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374131**

BLUE eyed redhead, medium/curvy build, very feminine, looking for male friend for discreet meets and fun text. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372053**

GENUINE racy female with a compassionate side looking for similar man to share lots of laughter and romantic nights in/out, 36-66yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370109**

PETITE 37yr old nurse with no ties looking for someone nice to spend some romantic time with, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370107**

FIT female 39, enjoys good conversation, laughs and walking bare foot in the grass, WLTM similar sensual male for tactile friendship/more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372663**

KATHY attractive single mum 25, slim, dark hair/eyes, discreet, fed up with being alone, looking older male for mutual tlc. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372661**

LISTEN up! Attractive female, WLTM male into music, films, sport and theatre. London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367971**

JOHN 60, lonely, retired businessman, seeking mature lady for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376543**

MICHAEL 44, friendly, fun, seeking fun female for casual meets. Portsmouth. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376321**

JAMES professional, seeking female for fun times. Surrey. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375913**

MALCOLM 65, 5ft 10ins, medium build, young outlook, fit, GSOH, no ties, well travelled, N/S, tactile, caring, varied interests, seeks slim lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387742**

MARK 48, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, short hair, good physique, fun, passionate, considerate, nice clothes/car, seeks fun female, 45-60 for meetings and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387718**

MARK 46, likes theatre, cinema, seeking female for companionship and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375891**

YOUNG 61yr old Bexhill man, 5ft 8ins, likes cats, cooking, travel, seeks female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387582**

TALL caring, considerate male, 52, no ties, seeks female, 42-52 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375177**

NAUGHTY lady 50 plus sought to enjoy naughty fun and friendship with fit 55yr old real man. South Coast. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375083**

KEVIN young, fun loving, free spirited, adventurous male, fit, healthy, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375077**

MIKE black male seeks large mature white female for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387848**

GARY 43, easygoing, seeking female, 36-48 for fun times, friendship and relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387812**

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MARK 37, 5ft 9ins, brown hair/eyes, seeks female, 26-40. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388040**

DAVID 62, gentleman, believes in a disciplined approach to life, seeks curvy likeminded lady for interesting relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377449**

CHRIS young 61, loves animals, cooking, travel, seeks nice lady for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388018**

STEVE 36 funny, likes a laugh, few drinks at the weekend, easygoing, looking for special female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388010**

NIGEL 42, likes cinema, meals out, seeks similar female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387996**

WHITE male, 6ft 1ins, 38, blue eyes, medium build, shaved hair, likes music, seeks Indian/Asian lady for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377273**

DEREK black male, seeking mature female for friendship and serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387986**

MARK sincere, honest, sensitive, late 30's, slim, size 10 lingerie wearer, seeks sincere, slim female for friendship and fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376389**

DAVID 58, professional, looking for an easygoing lady for a LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367157**

GERRY 5ft 4ins, medium build, blue eyes, likes gym, walks, cycling, holidays, dining in/out, seeks lovely female to share time with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376775**

JAMES professional, 50's, 5ft 10ins, well travelled, seeks sensual, feminine, slim lady, 35-52, any race. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376723**

WORTHING guy 30's, N/S, likes restaurants, seeking Worthing lady, N/S. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387886**

ROBERT 55, self employed, N/S, seeks slim lady, 50-65 for friendship. East Sussex. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387884**

DAVID easygoing, personable 58, 6ft, slim, blue eyes, clean shaven, loyal, tactile, seeks female 30-55 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376467**

I'M the one! Young 60, GSOH, likes sea/countryside, short weekend breaks, dining in/out, phone now to hear more. Shepperton. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376455**

TONY 31, caring, brown hair/eyes, seeks female, 21-45 to share time with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376313**

MAL 57, N/S, driver, tall, GSOH, truthful, honest, seeks female for LTR, any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376773**

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NICK early 30's, passive, seeks older guy for no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387846**

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*Not available on Expression, ES, ES Tech models. **Finance Deposit Allowance not available on Astra GTC. Model shown is New Astra SRi 5dr. Finance provided by Vauxhall Finance, a trading style of GMAC UK plc, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Finance is subject to status, terms and conditions. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only excluding B2B). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on orders or registrations before 19 December 2011. †Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply.

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SLK boasts air of quality

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

MERCEDES-BENZ launched a game-changer by unveiling its SLK sports car in 1996.

It boasted a folding hard-top since emulated by many other car-makers – most successfully by Mazda's MX-5 CC.

But the German prestige roadster was not such a big hit for driver experience. With a so-so chassis and the offer of auto box only, the SLK was written off as rather effete.

That changed with the Mark II in 2004. Available with manual and auto and given a snout inspired by the legendary Mercedes-Benz SLR McLaren supercar, it looked neater and drove much better than its stilted predecessor.

However, it faced stiff competition from BMW's comparitively ugly Z4 and the much-lauded Porsche Boxster.

Neverthless, good sales and robust used values voted it a success and the marque followed up earlier this year with a third-generation car.

The newcomer draws the eye, though its heavier look moves the car away from what SLK stands for – it translates from German as sporty, light and short.

Dealers won't be concerned, though, since the new SLK appears to be drawing in buyers who haven't previously shopped for the brand.

What they get is that superb all-weather roof – roof-up, you really wouldn't know you are in a convertible – excellent build quality and all the latest tech, including Airscarf heater ducts built into the headrests, pioneered on the previous SLK.

The folding hard-top roof is also now made of glass and can be set to light or dark; the former suggests open-air motoring even when the elements are closed out, while blackout mode keeps the full heat of the sun off when parked or when you need to travel roof-up with the air-con at full blast.

Of course, you might also need the latter mode when travelling with a full load of luggage, since the folded roof has to park itself somewhere and that does steal some boot space as well as leaving a pretty narrow aperture for loading.

But you forgive such practical difficulties for the warm feeling that washes over when you are driving the SLK.

The test car was the £35,500 200 AMG Sport Auto AMG trimmed model, which wears stunning alloys, but all SLK models (from £29,980) come well-equipped.

The cockpit is well-appointed and arranged and comes with leather seats as standard at this level. With roof down and side-windows up, plus Airscarf wafting around you, the car feels refined – only rain will make you want to hit the roof retractor/opener on the armrest.

There is a fair bit of cockpit stowage, too, for a two-seater. But does it walk the talk?

Yes and no; while the SLK feels more taut and robust than before, it has lost some of the previous car's nimbleness. To be fair, that is partly due to M-B's impressive desire to make its cars as green as possible, so all current SLK models wear the marque's low-emission BlueEfficiency eco badge with pride.

That means you can potter around in your 181bhp 1.8-litre in Eco mode and average more than 40mpg, but you will want Sport mode to get you near the official 0-62mph in seven seconds. The seven-speed auto box is a nifty changer and you can also drive in manual mode via the stick shift or steering-wheel paddles.

The level of grip is good, but the SLK's steering feedback is set up more for town posing, while the car itself feels a bit ponderous with this powertrain; keen drivers will want the extra grunt of the 44-grand 303bhp 3.5-litre AMG Sport – surely an out and out performance flagship is in the offing, too?

MERCEDES-BENZ SLK 200: PRICE £35,500

CLASS ACT: The Mercedes SLK 200 is now in its third incarnation and appears to have hit the right note with buyers who haven't previously shopped for the brand

FACT FILE

Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★
Value:	★★★
Reliabilty:	★ ★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Road tax:	£165/year
Best rival:	Porsche Boxster

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First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS

Orders open for VW Up!

VOLKSWAGEN has just opened order books for its innovative and cheeky new Up! city car, due here in the spring, priced from £7,995.

It actually lives 'up' to the usual claim made in this sector by offering big car space on a compact body that also happens to be more stylish and practical than the model it replaces, the Fox.

A Mii too from Seat cousins

SEAT, the Spanish arm of the VW group, has produced a spin-off from the Up! that allows the marque to re-enter the city-car sector for the first time since the Arosa (1997-2004).

With several styling differences from the Up!, the new Mii is also due next spring. Prices are not being quoted yet, but expect it to undercut the VW.

Skoda won't be Up!staged

CZECH marque Skoda has been quick on the Up!take, too, launching the Citigo next summer – its first venture into the city-car sector.

Again, it differs slightly in looks from the Up!, but Skoda's aim will be to offer best value and running costs against in-house and outside rivals.

Expect a big battle in the baby-car market.

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*Price shown is for Savvy Style 1.2 MT; manufacturer's list price £7,995 excluding metallic paint which is an option at £365. On the road price includes VAT, delivery, number plates, 12 months' road fund licence and first registration fee. ‡Warranty is subject to maintenance in accordance with manufacturer's schedules, 3 year or 60,000 miles. Terms and conditions apply. ^FREE servicing on Proton vehicles registered from 22nd September 2011 until 31st October 2011 and available for the first owner only.

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Ford shrugs off hard time to retain UK's top status

FORD was the clear UK market-leader in a difficult September – the month when new-car sales are boosted significantly by the registration-plate change.

With business confidence low, though, September was 0.8 per cent down on September 2010, according to motor-industry body the SMMT, and Ford was one of many carmakers that lost ground.

However, the UK leader continues to outperform rivals long term, currently maintaining a market share of 15.2 per cent so far this year – 0.1 of a percentage point up compared with the same period 12 months ago.

The Ford Fiesta supermini, pictured below, and the Ford Focus range were number one and two respectively at the top of the UK car sales chart for September and the year to date.

The Transit van, pictured, continues to top the UK commercial-vehicle charts, holding a quarter of the medium CV sector and having enjoyed a staggering leap from sales of 34,683 from January to September 2010, against 44,765 over the same period this year.

Other Ford stars were the five- and seven-seat Ford C-Max MPV and the bigger seven-seat Galaxy.

Ford of Britain managing director Mark Ovenden said: "In an intensely competitive market we are delighted with the overall balance of demand for our best-ever vehicle range.

"The Ford Fiesta, Ford Focus and Ford Transit stand out as vehicles of huge appeal to UK customers. Customers are recognising the outstanding value provided by these vehicles, and the entire Ford range."

NEW KID ON THE BLOCK: Renault is about to unleash its new electric city car, the Twizy, on the UK public in March

City-slicker Twizy here soon

RENAULT has confirmed its quirky-looking electric tandem Twizy city car will arrive in the UK next March, and revealed there will now be three trim options.

Prices start at just £6,690, with a monthly battery hire from £40. The Urban is the lead-in model with the new Colour trim (£6,950) sitting between that and the top-of-the-range Technic (£7,400).

These prices look considerably cheaper against conventional-looking electric cars, costing at least £20,000.

Standard kit on the Twizy includes a charging cable, heated tinted windscreen and onboard computer and dashboard with econometer and battery consumption display.

With its weight low down and instant torque or pulling power from its electric motors, Renault reckons the Twizy can give far more expensive cars, white-van man and taxis a run for their money in urban use.

Apart from fast acceleration, it can also reach up to 50 mph and will take a full recharge in just three and a half hours, to deliver a range of 60 miles.

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Representative example			
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On the road price	£31,125.00	Amount of credit	£25,940.29
Customer deposit	£4,915.00	Total amount payable††	£35,609.71
Retailer Deposit Contribution	£269.71	Acceptance fee	£180.00
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Number of payments	36	Fixed interest rate	6.26%
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Official government fuel consumption figures in mpg (litres per 100km) for the SLK-Class range: urban 19.5(14.5)-25.4(11.1), extra urban 40.4(7.0)- 48.7(5.8), combined 29.1(9.7)-36.2(7.8). CO2 emissions: 227-184 g/km.

Image Model featured is a new Mercedes-Benz SLK 200 BlueEFFICIENCY at £32,900.00 on-the-road including optional 18" alloy wheels at £715.00, Sports Suspension at £205.00, nappa leather upholstery at £1,355.00 and metallic paint at £645.00 (on the road price includes VAT, delivery, 12 months' Road Fund Licence, number plates, first registration fee and fuel). †Payable if you exercise the option to purchase the car. ††Includes optional purchase payment, purchase activation fee and retailer deposit contribution. *Based on a Mercedes-Benz Agility agreement. Example based on 10,000 miles per annum. Excess mileage charges may apply. Quotations available on request for alternative contract lengths and mileages. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. The finance campaign is available on SLK models ordered and credit approved between 1st October and 31st December and registered by 31st December 2011. ^Two consecutive scheduled services available only on vehicles purchased from 1st October 2011 to 31st December 2011, and registered by 31st December 2011. The offer excludes all AMG products and V8 engine models. Services must be carried out at an Official Lookers Mercedes-Benz Workshop. No cash alternative. Offers cannot be used in conjunction with any other published offer from the retailer and are subject to availability. Terms and conditions apply. Credit provided subject to status by Mercedes-Benz Financial Services UK Limited, MK7 8ND. Offer is subject to availability. **Featured rates are not offer rates and are available all year round at your local Mercedes-Benz official workshop. Based on an SLK manual. Standard service price only. Additional mandatory service items may be required dependent on the age and mileage of the vehicle. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. These offers are applicable to OUR retailers and on production of this letter.

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Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the Škoda range: Urban 19.2 (14.7) – 68.9 (4.1), Extra Urban 36.2 (7.8) – 94.2 (3.0), Combined 27.7 (10.2) – 83.1 (3.4). CO2 emissions for the Škoda range 237 – 89g/km.

Car of the Week
* **59 Volvo C70 Coupe Convertible** 12,000 miles, Diesel, Blue Metallic, Ivory Leather, 1 owner, Every conceivable extra, £30,000 new. **Only £16,995**

Used Cars
* **09 Plate. Skoda Fabia 2 1.2 Htp 12v (70BHP) 5- Dr Hatchback** Brilliant silver metallic, 19,500 miles. **£6,995**
* **08 Plate. Skoda Fabia 2 1.4 16v (85 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback** Satub grey metallic, 27,000 miles. **£6,995**
* **11 Plate. Skoda 1.2 (70 BHP) SE 5Dr Hatchback** Silver metallic, 6,900 miles, manual. **£8,995**
* **10 Plate. Skoda Octavia 2.0 TDi CR vRS 5-Dr** Black Magic Metallic Manual Diesel with multi-colour velour-leather interior 20,500 miles. **£14,995**
* **05 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1.2 Htp (54 BHP) Classic 5-Dr Hatchback** Blue storm metallic, 39,000 miles. **£3,995**
* **08 Plate. Skoda Fabia 2 1.2 HTP 12v (70BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback** Metallic Satin Grey, 29,000 miles*, Manual, Petrol. **£6,995**
* **04 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1.4 16v Classic 4-dr Saloon** Black magic metallic, 45,700 miles. **£3,295**
* **05 Plate. Skoda Octavia 2.0 FSI Elegance 5-Dr Hatchback** Metallic Graphite Grey, 48.700 miles, manual, petrol. **£5,495**
* **09 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback Metallic Satin Grey, 12,400 miles, manual, petrol. £6,495**
* **07 Plate. Skoda Superb 1.9 TDI PD 100 Classic 4-Dr Saloon** Metallic Brilliant Silver, 38,700 miles, manual, diesel. **£8,995**
* **08 Plate. Skoda Superb 2.0 TDI CR Elegance (170 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback** Metallic Steel Grey, 14,500 miles, manual, diesel. **£15,995**

Demo Cars
* **11 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1.2 SE Hatchback** £8,995 ex demo
* **10 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1.2 TSi SE 12v Hatchback** £8,995 ex demo
* **10 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1.6 Level 2 TDi** Satin Grey, 7,700 miles.* £9,995 ex demo
* **10 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1.6 SE TDi CV 5-Dr Hatchback** £9,995 ex demo
* **11 Plate. Skoda Roomster 1.6 TDi** £11,995 ex demo
* **11 Plate. Skoda Fabia Auto 1.4 TSi VRS 5-Dr Hatchback** £13,495 ex demo

Other Makes
* **09 Plate. Suzuki SX4 1.6 SZ4 4-Door Saloon Nov 2009** Red Metallic Manual Petrol 39,080 miles. **£7,995**
* **03 Plate. Toyota Corolla 1.8 WTL IT Sport 5-dr** Silver steel metallic, 69,000 miles **£3,995**
* **05 Plate. Street Ka 1.6 Luxury 2-dr Convertible** Red hot, 33,500 miles **£3,995**
* **04 Plate. Fiat Panda 1.2 Eleganza 5-dr Hatchback Import** Yellow, 73,500 miles. **£2,795**
* **04 Plate. Citreon Xsara Picasso 1.8 Desire 5-Dr MPV Metallic Artic Steel, 97,500 miles, manual, petrol. £3,795**
* **04 Plate. Volkswagen Polo 1.4 TDI Twist 5-Dr** Metallic Reflex Silver, 85,900 miles, manual, diesel. **£3,495**
* **09 Plate. Volvo C70 2.0 D Sport Premium 2-Dr Convertible** Pearl Metallic Celestial Blue, 12,317 miles, automatic, diesel. **£16,995**

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Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the Skoda range: Urban 19.2 (14.7) – 68.9 (4.1), Extra Urban 36.2 (7.8) – 94.2 (3.0), Combined 27.7 (10.2) – 83.1 (3.4). CO_2 emissions for the Skoda range 237 – 89g/km.

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04 Plate **Peugeot 407** 2.0 HDi SE 4dr

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2008/58 PLATE NEW SHAPE FORD MONDEO TDCi EDGE 5 DOOR

in metallic desert red with contrasting charcoal cloth interior air conditioning remote control c/l cruise control front centre armrest electric windows multiple airbag protection system front seats height adjustment multifunction steering wheel 6 speed gearbox this car comes with a full service history with only one owner from new ideal family car which offers good fuel economy sensibly priced at only **£6,995**

2003/53 PLATE PEUGEOT 206 1.6 QUICKSILVER 3 DOOR

in Moonlight metallic silver with contrasting black cloth interior-alloy wheels-electric windows-air conditioning-c/d incar entertainment system-remote control central locking-multiple airbag protection system-front foglights-drivers seat height adjustment-nice little car looks great sensibly priced at only **£2,995**

2002/02 PLATE VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT 2.0 SE AUTO 4 DOOR

in metallic charcoal grey with contrasting black cloth interior air conditioning electric windows remote control central locking alloy wheels c/d in car entertainment system electric adjustable door mirrors drivers seat height adjustment multiple airbag protection system this car offers great value for money **WAS ~~£3,495~~ NOW £2,995**

2005/55 PLATE FORD FOCUS 1.8 LX TDCi 5 DOOR

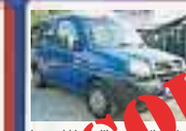
in metallic charcoal grey with contrasting black cloth interior-air conditioning-electric windows- c/d in car entertainment system-remote control central locking-drivers seat height adjustment- electric adjustable door mirrors-this car offers great fuel economy and has a full service history ideal family car reasonably priced at only **£4695**

2010/60 PLATE AUDI A4 S LINE 2.0 TDI 143BHP 4 DOOR

in metallic stardust silver with black leather interior sat nav air con r/c/c/locking e/windows 6 speed gearbox e/mirrors front fog lights multifunction steering wheel front & rear parking sensors alloy wheels daylight running headlights c/d multiple airbag one owner from new, only 12,000 miles **WAS ~~£22,995~~ NOW £21,995**

2003/03 PLATE PEUGEOT 206CC 2.0 SE CONVERTIBLE

in Metallic midnight Black with contrasting full back leather interior-air conditioning-electric windowsalloy wheels-multi function steering wheel-electric adjustable door mirrors-power steering-drivers seat height adjustment-this car is offered with a full service history, great fun for the summer and sensibly priced at only **£3995**



2002/52 PLATE FIAT DOBLO 1.2[illegible] 5 DOOR SOLD

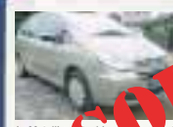
in royal blu[illegible] with co[illegible]ting [illegible]lue cloth interior-remote control cen[illegible]-power assisted steering- electric windows-in car en[illegible]tainment system-rear wash wipe-overhead stora[illegible] compartments-multi airbag protection system-this car has had one owner with only 17'000 miles from new! It is a spacious well looked after car sensibly priced at only

2008/08 PLATE FIAT PANDA 100HP 5 DOOR

in met royal blue with contrasting black sport cloth interior-climate control air cond-electric windows-front fog lights-electric adjustable door mirrors-power steering-remote control central locking-alloy wheels-c/d in-car entertainment system-6 speed gearbox-multi steering wheel-mult airbag protection system-driver seat height adjustment-this car is offered with a full Fiat service history & is very clean **£4995**

2007/07 PLATE CITROEN C4 1.6 SX AUTOMATIC 5 DOOR

in metallic ice blue with contrasting black cloth interior-alloy wheels-electric adjustable door mirrors-air conditioning-remote central locking-Electric windows-c/d incar entertainment system-drivers seat height adjustment-front fog lights-this car has a full service history sensibly priced at only **£2495**



2004/04 PLATE CITROEN XSARA PICA[illegible] DESIRE 2 [illegible] SOLD

in Metallic p[illegible] with contrasting black cloth interior-front fog lights-electric windows-air conditioning-electric heated adjusta[illegible] door mirrors-c/d in car entertainment ssystem-this car would make an ideal family car and comes with a full service history sensibly priced at only

2007/57 PLATE MERCEDES CLK320 CDI SPORT COUPE AUTOMATIC

in midnight metallic black with contrasting cream leather interior-sat nav-air conditioning-electric windows-amg alloy wheels-c/d in-car entertainment system-7 speed automatic gearbox-multifunctional steering wheel-front center armrest-this car has only covered 45,000 miles from new with a full mercedes service history sensibly priced at only **£15995**

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P REG/1997 MAZDA 323 1.5 LXI 5 door in metallic red-alloy wheels-power steering-electric windows-this car will come with a new mot and is good value for money at only **£695**

2001/51 MAZDA 626 SPORT 4 DOOR SALOON in metallic midnight black with contrasting grey cloth interior electric windows elec sunroof alloys c/d player remote control central locking this car has a new mot, long tax it's very clean and offers **£995**

1999/ T REG FORD FIESTA 1.3 FINESSE 3 DOOR in bright red with dark grey cloth interior power steering C/D player long MOT and taxed until the end of November, this car would make a great first car and offers good value for money at only **£995**

1998/S REG MERCEDES A 160 ELEGANCE SEMI AUTOMATIC in red metallic with black cloth interior, air conditioning electric windows central locking this car is offered with a new MOT Taxed until the end of the year and sensibly priced at only **£1995**

2001/51 NISSAN ALMERA TINO SE2 in metallic ocean blue with contrasting blue cloth interior-air conditioning-electric windows-electric sunroof-alloy wheels-c/d player-central locking this car is offered with a long mot and sensibly priced at only **£1,295**

REG BMW 328i CABRIOLET AUTOMATIC In maroon with matching roof and contrasting black leather interior- power roof- alloy wheels- this car has low mileage and is in excellent condition priced at only **£3995**

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- Radio CD with Bluetooth, MP3 & RCD connection
- ABS Brakes with Electronic Brakeforce Distribution (EBD)
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FOOTBALL

Picture: DAVE PLUMB

TALENT: Michael West

West at ease with interest from scouts

DESPITE reportedly being tracked by more than a dozen scouts Ebbsfleet United's Michael West insists the attention is not a distraction.

Those present at Stonebridge Road on Tuesday night would have been impressed as the 20-year-old scored twice in the last 13 minutes as the Fleet came from two goals down to draw 2-2 with Luton Town.

West, who played a key part in the side's promotion via the Conference South play-offs last season, admitted he was flattered by the speculation but remains unfazed about his future.

He said: "I have an agent who tells me [about the scouts] but it doesn't bother me because if I let it bother me I'd ruin my performances on the pitch.

"They can come all they want but at the moment I'm an Ebbsfleet player and I can't go anywhere because the transfer window's not open.

"They can come, it's good because it lets me know I'm playing well.

"I'm only young still and I want to do the best I can, wherever it takes me."

SUPERBIKES

World Superbike move on the agenda for champion Hill after final lap drama

By David Pritchard
david.pritchard@archant.co.uk

THREE World Superbike (WSBK) teams have shown an interest in signing Tommy Hill for next season after he won the British Superbike Championship (BSB) in astonishing fashion at Brands Hatch last weekend.

The entire season came down to the final lap of the last race, which saw Hill and his title rival John Hopkins go wheel-to-wheel around the Grand Prix circuit.

The pair switched places five times in 2.6 miles, with Beckenham-born Hill crossing the finish line in second place, 0.006 seconds ahead of Hopkins.

Even before the victory champagne had lost its fizz thoughts had turned to next season. As champion the 26-year-old's stock has never been higher and he will not be short of offers.

While staying on to defend his title with Swan Yamaha is an option, Hill revealed a move up to World Superbikes is also on the table.

"There are lots of phone calls, it's all just possibilities at this point," he said.

"It's always a good place to be, holding the number one plate. My first choice is to speak to Swan Yamaha, we will see what happens and hopefully by the end of the month it'll be clearer.

"A World Superbike slot is a possibility. There are three teams looking to do something, two are new teams who are in negotiations with sponsors for next year.

"It's about making the right choice and staying on a winning bike for next year."

A move on to the world stage is a well-worn path for BSB champions. Fellow Kent riders Leon Camier, from Ashford, and Sheppey's Shane Byrne secured WSBK deals in the wake of their title victories in 2009 and 2008 respectively.

Although plans for next year have dominated Hill's schedule this week, there has been time for reflection on the extraordinary events at Brands last Sunday.

Pictures: STEVE GRIGGS

GLORY: Tommy Hill celebrates on the podium after the British Superbike Championship came down to the wire at Brands Hatch last weekend

Hopkins held a slender eight-point lead heading into the final three races, but it had been trimmed to just two points by the beginning of the last race.

Hill lost a championship lead in the final round 12 months earlier and was determined not to see a second crown slip from his grasp.

"I wasn't going to go down without a fight," he said.

"In the last lap I thought 'I can win this' and I gritted my teeth and closed my eyes and just got on with it.

"I don't think I was breathing hard, the adrenalin had taken over - it was do or die. On the last corner I opened the throttle way before I had on any other lap and I needed to because John was right there.

"When I crossed the line I reckoned I'd won but then I saw John put his arm up and I thought 'oh no'. It was only after I saw the marshalls and the crowd that I knew I'd got it.

"The crowd were amazing, it was a very emotional moment on the podium.

"I was just shocked that 27 races had come down to that last corner."

The euphoria around the title battle overshadowed Byrne's superb finish to the campaign.

A sixth place finish in the first race scuppered any faint hopes the 35-year-old had of winning the title, but the HM Plant Honda rider won the final two races to end the season third in the standings, 22 points behind Hill.

– ROLL OF HONOUR – KENT'S BRITISH SUPERBIKE CHAMPIONS –

2011 Tommy Hill
2009 Leon Camier
2008 Shane Byrne
2003 Shane Byrne

TOURING CARS

Double BTCC champion drafted in by Airwaves for finale

MOTORBASE Performance have pulled off a masterstroke as they chase three different titles in the final round of the British Touring Car Championship (BTCC) this weekend.

Double BTCC champion James Thompson has been brought in for the three races at Silverstone on Sunday, replacing Michael Caine in the team's third Ford Focus.

The 37-year-old won the title in 2002 and 2004 and his 36 race wins have only been surpassed by three men in the series' history. He went on to enjoy success in the World Touring Car Championship (WTCC) and has most recently been driving in Scandinavia.

Thompson has been drafted in to assist the Wrotham-based team, who compete in the BTCC as Airwaves Racing, attack on three fronts.

Mat Jackson retains a slim chance of finishing the weekend as overall champion, while the independents' crown is also in his sights. Airwaves are also in contention to win the independents' team title if results go their way at Silverstone.

Team boss Dave Bartrum said: "We've got to support Mat and give him the best chance in the last three races.

"It's not over for us in the overall points as the top three drivers are sure to battle with each other. We hope that James can jump in the car and get straight onto the pace of the front runners."

Thompson is delighted to be given the chance.

He said: "I'm genuinely excited to be coming back to compete in the finale of the championship. I'm here to lend support to Mat and the Airwaves team in their quest for the title and try not to cause too much mischief out on the track."

Thompson's return as part of Airwaves' trophy pursuit adds an extra layer of intrigue on an already fascinating climax to the season. Following the penultimate round at Brands Hatch a fortnight ago Matt Neal leads the way, just five points ahead of his Honda team-mate Gordon Shedden and defending champion Jason Plato.

Jackson is a further 31 points back in fourth, but the two independents' prizes are well within the team's grasp.

Further down the grid Dartford's Tony Gilham is expected to run with a turbo charged engine in his BMW for the first time. It was hoped to be installed in time for the meeting at Brands, but more testing was needed and he will be looking to finish an eventful first season in the BTCC on a high.

AmD Milltek, run by Pembury's Shaun Hollamby, are also in the same boat after failing to score a top 10 finish at Brands.

Picture: NICK DUNGAN

BOOST: Airwaves Racing have recruited James Thompson for the final round at Silverstone this weekend in a bid to improve their chances of glory

FOOTBALL

Skipper backs Gills' young guns for bright futures

By David Pritchard
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GILLINGHAM captain Andy Frampton has tipped Luke Rooney and Jack Payne to have big futures ahead after the pair's performances this season.

Frampton arrived at Priestfield this summer and after almost four months at the club it is the young duo who have made the biggest impression on the 32-year-old.

Payne has been on the sidelines for a month with a knee injury but when fit is one of the first names on the teamsheet. The 19-year-old has long been a key player in central midfield and has already racked up 64 games for the club.

Rooney, 20, is enjoying his best run in the side and passed a half century of appearances for the club earlier this month.

Frampton, who before this season had spent his entire career above League Two, believes the pair have what it takes to succeed at a higher level.

"I didn't realise the youth side of the club was so strong," he said. "You only have to look at the lads who are coming through - you can see how Luke Rooney's done and when Jack's been fit how well he plays. It's a rich talent they have in the youth here and that bodes well for the future, definitely. For the club they are major assets.

"They're both fairly local as well which is important for the fans to have that kind of structure and see those players come through. With the way they play they'll have very bright futures, which is good to see."

Picture: ADY KERRY

YOUNG GUNS: Andy Frampton has been very impressed with Luke Rooney and Jack Payne

One of the squad's more experienced players is also making encouraging progress. Before this weekend, Simon King had made six appearances since moving on loan to Plymouth Argyle, the best sequence of games he has had since missing almost two seasons with an ankle injury.

Gills boss Andy Hessenthaler has been watching from afar with interest and is delighted to see the defender come through a succession of games without any major problems.

He said: "I think psychologically at the moment he should be on a high because he's playing games. We all know if we can get Simon back to anywhere near his top form he's one of, if not the, best centre-half in this division.

"For us to have that quality of player back at this club to help us push for what we want to achieve this season would be fantastic."

Pictures: ADY KERRY

CYCLING

Blood, sweat and gears in tough uphill battle

MORE than 100 brave cyclists took on the gruelling challenge of the Yorks Hill Climb Classic last weekend.

The annual event, organised by Catford Cycle Club, is held on a brutal 707-yard hill near Sevenoaks, where the average gradient is 12.5 per cent and at two points reaches 25 per cent.

Held for the first time in 1886, it is billed as the oldest continuing cycle race in the world. It began on nearby Westerham Hill, before switching to its present location in 1935.

Robert Gough, representing Adeo Cadence RT, clocked the fastest time on Sunday, completing the course in one minute 54 seconds, while Sarah Connell (Brixton Cycles) was the fastest woman.

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL FOCUS WITH **FRED ATKINS**

The madness of spending big

"NEVER assume competence. It's always a mistake to assume the people in authority know what they're doing in any walk of life and this is particularly true when it comes to non-league football.

At the time of writing, less than two months into the season, we haven't yet had a "Kent club in crisis" story, but it's a safe bet that somewhere in the county an unpaid VAT bill or tax demand is ready to trigger a winding up order.

The last few seasons have mined an especially deep seam of financial incompetence, with barely a month going by without fears of a club "going to the wall", (wherever that is).

Let's take the example of one prominent non-league club in Kent. A couple of seasons ago this club, who for diplomatic (and legal) reasons shall remain unnamed, allegedly employed a manager on a salary of £35,000 per year.

If that sounds excessive the same club were also rumoured to be employing an assistant manager, a youth development officer, a director of football and most spuriously of all an assistant director of football, all for more than the average wage of a UK worker.

At a conservative estimate, this meant the wage bill for coaching staff ran to at least £100,000 per year, which combined with a playing budget of around £7,000 per week, jacked their annual football costs up to an eye-watering £250,000.

Gates would need to be well over 700 before these wages were covered and that's before all the other running costs chairmen regularly bemoan were met. The club in question failed to challenge for honours and may as well have flushed a six-figure sum down the u-bend to save everyone a lot of time and effort.

They were not alone. Hear the one about the Kent League club who paid a manager 40 grand in one season when they averaged less than 100 paying fans per game?

There is a school of thought that says if someone wants to blow their money on wages they should be allowed to do so, but this is the kind of logic that let "Sir" Fred Goodwin reign in idiocy.

The FA's answer was to introduce a rule saying any club that folded would have to drop down two divisions if they reformed. It was a noble attempt to prevent creditors getting ripped off, but it hasn't worked, either as a prevention or a cure.

The easy solution is to introduce a salary cap that limits playing budgets to a percentage of annual turnover, but it won't happen and in around two months time there'll be a mass exodus from a Kent club when a director suddenly realises his team are going to finish in mid-table and that he stands to lose thousands.

Why? Because some of our football administrators are nearly as dense as our bankers."

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